

A RESOLUTION

23-47

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2019

To declare the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia is committed to promoting the human rights and well-being of all its residents, workers, and visitors; and to call on the federal government to prevent nuclear war.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Urging the Federal Government to Prevent Nuclear War Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) The District of Columbia has long sought to ensure the equal protection of human rights and well-being for all residents, workers, and visitors in our city.

(2) Since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads; however, 14,500 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival.

(3) Ninety-five percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by 7 other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom.

(4) The use of even a small fraction of these weapons would cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine. A large scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people and directly cause catastrophic environmental damage.

(5) Despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear-armed states have prepared to use these weapons and war has been averted only at the last minute.

(6) As the effects of climate change place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow.

(5) The planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but will fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world.

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(6) To provide an alternative to nuclear war, in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

(1) We reaffirm the District of Columbia's status as a guardian of human rights and we call on Congress and the President to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament a centerpiece of our national security policy.

(2) We urge the U.S. Government to pull back from the brink of nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending any president's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack; taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; canceling plans to replace the entire weapon arsenal with enhanced weaponry; and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

(3) We declare our continuing commitment to our country's founding principles of freedom and equality, and our intention to defend the safety, dignity, and liberty of all of our residents and all people.

Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Delegate from the District of Columbia in the United States Congress.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.