

House Resolution 379

By: Representatives Evans of the 83rd, Oliver of the 82nd, Smyre of the 135th, Hugley of the 136th, Frazier of the 126th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to impose limits on the President's First Use nuclear strike
2 capabilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the use of even a small number of nuclear weapons could have catastrophic
4 human, environmental, health, and economic consequences globally; and

5 WHEREAS, some 14,000 nuclear weapons still exist in the world and pose an intolerable
6 risk to humanity; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States has over 6,000 nuclear weapons, which combined are more
8 than 100 times more powerful than all the weapons used during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States is currently spending over \$1 trillion over 30 years to rebuild
10 its entire nuclear weapons arsenal – a gross misuse of funds that could be devoted instead to
11 improving security, health, and education; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States maintains nearly 1,000 nuclear weapons on high alert so they
13 are ready for launch within minutes of a presidential decision to do so, increasing the risk of
14 nuclear use and making them vulnerable to accidents, unauthorized use, cyberattacks, and
15 miscalculations; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States currently reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response
17 to non-nuclear attacks by Russia, China, or North Korea, which could respond by using their
18 own nuclear weapons, resulting in a nuclear war that could have devastating consequences;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the sole purpose of our nuclear weapons should be to deter a nuclear attack on
21 the United States, its forces, and its allies, so that there is no reason for the United States to
22 ever use nuclear weapons first; and

23 WHEREAS, the President has sole authority to order a nuclear attack without any
24 consultation or input, which increases the chance of nuclear use; and

25 WHEREAS, a policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons would severely constrain
26 the ability of the President to order a nuclear attack, allowing attacks only in response to a
27 nuclear attack; and

28 WHEREAS, Americans and all people on the planet should have the right to live a life free
29 from the threat of nuclear weapons use; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States should take urgent steps to change its policies as well as
31 actively pursue verifiable agreements with other nuclear armed nations to reduce the number
32 of nuclear weapons and eliminate them from the planet; and

33 WHEREAS, leading Georgians, such as former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, former South
34 Korean Ambassador James Laney, and philanthropist and entrepreneur Ted Turner, have
35 made critical contributions to decreasing global nuclear threats; and

36 WHEREAS, the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex, located 25 miles southeast
37 of Augusta, adjacent to the Savannah River, is increasing National Nuclear Security
38 Administration nuclear weapons activities, including the planned production of 50 plutonium
39 pits annually; and

40 WHEREAS, Georgia communities downstream and downwind from the Savannah River Site
41 are potentially harmed by radioactive effluent in the air, surface water, ground water, fish,
42 rain, green leafy vegetables, and other environmental and nutrient pathways.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body urge the President to make it the policy of the United States that
45 the nation will not start a nuclear war and will therefore not use nuclear weapons first; urge
46 the United States Congress to pass legislation supporting this policy; and urge Congress not
47 to fund the development and production of additional nuclear weapons that can produce a
48 relatively small nuclear explosion, making them suitable for rogue nuclear war-fighting,
49 potentially weakening military codes that ban weaponizing drones with a nuclear warhead,
50 and potentially lowering the threshold to use nuclear weapons first.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
52 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
53 President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the U.S. House of
54 Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, and to each Senator and
55 Representative from Georgia in the United States Congress.