

SENATE No. 1487

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and move the US back from the brink of nuclear war.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>

SENATE No. 1487

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 1487) of Joanne M. Comerford, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Tackey Chan, Erika Uytterhoeven and other members of the General Court for the adoption of resolutions to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and move the US back from the brink of nuclear war. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1555 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

Resolutions to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and move the US back from the brink of nuclear war.

1 WHEREAS, the continued existence of more than 12,000 nuclear weapons worldwide
2 poses a grave and existential threat to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and repeated threats to use nuclear weapons
4 has dramatically increased the danger of nuclear war; and

5 WHEREAS, the citizens of the Commonwealth have expressed their deep concern about
6 this continuing threat over many decades and continue to do so; and

7 WHEREAS, this concern has been expressed through numerous Town Meetings and City
8 Council resolutions throughout the Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, this concern has also been expressed through numerous resolutions and bills
10 brought before this General Court, including at least 5 such bills introduced in the last legislative
11 session on this topic; and

12 WHEREAS, in general it is the federal government and not the state which has
13 jurisdiction over matters relating to nuclear weapons, this does not mean there is no role for the
14 Commonwealth to play in this regard; and

15 WHEREAS, in fact, it has been shown that the policies and actions of states can lead the
16 way to important and necessary changes at the federal level and even internationally; and

17 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts played a leading role in ending the
18 nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union in the 1980s, by adopting a Nuclear Freeze resolution
19 and encouraging other states to follow our example and

20 WHEREAS, over 40 years later it is not a “freeze” of nuclear weapons that is needed to
21 save the Commonwealth, and the world, from the unthinkable catastrophe of a nuclear war or a
22 nuclear accident, but the complete elimination of these weapons, in line with the Treaty on the
23 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force as international law on January 22,
24 2021;

25 THEREFORE, be it resolved that the General Court of the Commonwealth of
26 Massachusetts congratulates the 68 countries that have signed and ratified the Treaty on the
27 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and joins the legislatures of California and Oregon, the Maine
28 State Senate, the New Jersey Assembly, Rhode Island Senate and the 20 cities and towns in
29 Massachusetts which have taken action to protect their citizens from the existential threat of
30 nuclear war by embracing this Treaty and endorsing the national Back from the Brink platform,

31 which calls on our federal leaders to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
32 and to take immediate steps to prevent nuclear war by actively pursuing a verifiable agreement
33 among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, renouncing the option of using
34 nuclear weapons first, ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear
35 attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and canceling the plan to replace its
36 entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and be it further

37 RESOLVED, that it shall henceforth be the policy of the General Court of the
38 Commonwealth of Massachusetts to pursue whatever measures may be found necessary and
39 appropriate to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from the existential threat posed by
40 nuclear weapons and to contribute in whatever ways it can, as a Commonwealth, towards the
41 total elimination of these weapons from all countries, in line with the Treaty on the Prohibition
42 of Nuclear Weapons; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the
44 Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader
45 of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
46 States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from the Commonwealth in the Congress
47 of the United States, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth.