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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Opposing nuclear war and calling upon federal policymakers to never use nuclear
7 weapons first, end the President of the United States from being the sole decisionmaker
8 in a nuclear launch, remove US nuclear weapons from high alert, cancel the
9 replacement of the US nuclear arsenal, and pursue a policy of complete global nuclear
10 disarmament

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13 WHEREAS, nuclear weapons, with the potential to destroy cities or larger areas,
14 have existed since 1945 when the United States used them twice in war against Japan;
15 and according to Shigenobu Nagataki in the 2010 *Japan Journal of Health Physics*
16 article, “Latest Knowledge on Radiological Effects: Radiation Effects of Atomic Bomb
17 Explosions and Nuclear Power Plant Accidents”, combining the effects of the explosions
18 and radiation, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively killed
19 140,000 or 39 percent of the population and 70,000 or 28 percent of the population in
20 1945 and more later due to radiation exposure; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* reported in the 2013 article
23 “Global nuclear weapons inventories, 1945-2013,” that the United States, Russia,
24 United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and the North Korea have a
25 combined nuclear stockpile of more than 10,000 nuclear weapons which may be
26 launched from intercontinental ballistic missiles, artillery, submarines, or aircraft; and

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28 WHEREAS, today’s nuclear stockpiles are far more powerful than the atomic
29 weapons used against Japan, as the Hiroshima Bomb had a yield of 15 kilotons, while
30 the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’* “US nuclear forces, 2019” report indicates the
31 country’s 3,800 warheads, of which 1,750 are deployed, range in destructive potential of
32 0.3 to 455 kilotons, dozens of times more powerful than the Hiroshima Bomb; and

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34 WHEREAS, since the 1980s scientists have studied the potential effects of an
35 atomic war inducing a nuclear winter which would darken the skies and kill crops and
36 plants unable to receive sufficient sunlight, akin to the asteroid impact which around 65
37 million years ago created the Chicxulub Crater and destroyed approximately 75 percent
38 of all species, most notably the non-avian dinosaurs; and

39 WHEREAS, recognizing the dangers of nuclear warfare, the international
40 community came together to write the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear
41 Weapons (NPT), which is composed of three pillars:

- 42
- 43 • Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons
- 44 • Nuclear disarmament
- 45 • The peaceful use of nuclear energy
- 46

47 ; and

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49 WHEREAS, the NPT took effect in 1970, now has 191 States party to it, including
50 the United States, which ratified the Treaty in 1970; and under the terms of the NPT, the
51 United States may legally possess nuclear weapons understanding the NPT's Article VI
52 that the US "undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures
53 relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear
54 disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and
55 effective international control."; and

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57 WHEREAS, the United States is also party to the following arms limitation and
58 reduction treaties with Russia which have led to a greater than 85 percent decrease in
59 the American nuclear arsenal from its Cold War zenith of more than 30,000 atomic
60 weapons:

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- 62 • Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), 1963
- 63 • Interim Agreement on Offensive Arms (SALT I), 1972
- 64 • Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II), 1979 (succeeded by START I)
- 65 • Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), 1994 (expired 2009)
- 66 • Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II (START II), 1996
- 67 • Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), 2003 (expired 2011)
- 68 • New START, 2010 (successor to SORT, extended until 2026)
- 69

70 ; and

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72 WHEREAS, the United States is increasingly not adhering to the spirit of the NPT
73 as the President withdrew the United States from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of
74 1972 (ABM) in 2002 and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1987 (INF)
75 in 2019, and the United States has not ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban
76 Treaty (1996) nor the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017); and

77

78 WHEREAS, the Associated Press reported in an April 2019 headline that the "US
79 halts recent practice of disclosing nuclear weapons total" which is counter-productive to

80 international security by working against building international trust and transparency;
81 and

82

83 WHEREAS, since January 2020, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* has had its
84 famed “Doomsday Clock” set to 100 seconds to midnight, midnight being a metaphor for
85 nuclear Armageddon, because, “Humanity continues to face two simultaneous
86 existential dangers – nuclear war and climate change – that are compounded by a
87 threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts a society’s ability to
88 respond. The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist,
89 but because world leaders have allowed international political infrastructure for
90 managing them to erode. . . [W]e have seen influential leaders denigrate and discard
91 the most effective methods for addressing complex threats – international agreements
92 with strong verification regimes – in favor of their own narrow interests and domestic
93 political gain.”; and

94

95 WHEREAS, since 1967, official United States policy has been to have a “flexible
96 response” whereby the President, as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, may
97 launch a nuclear first strike against nonnuclear military threats and escalate a conflict to
98 a nuclear exchange, or at any time for any reason initiate a nuclear attack, and it would
99 only take one poor choice or deranged President to start a global nuclear war; and

100

101 WHEREAS, maintaining nuclear forces in a status of high alert or “hair-trigger
102 alert”, whereby a nuclear attack may initiate at a moment’s notice, increases the
103 potential for an accidental start to a nuclear war, as has happened numerous times
104 between the United States and Russia during and after the Cold War; and

105

106 WHEREAS, in 2017 the Congressional Budget Office estimated that from 2017
107 to 2046, the federal nuclear modernization plan would cost \$1.2 trillion in 2017 dollars,
108 or more precisely:

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- 110 • \$772 billion for the “operation, sustainment, and modernization of strategic
111 nuclear delivery systems and weapons – the long-range aircraft, missiles, and
112 submarines that launch nuclear weapons...”
- 113 • \$25 billion for the “operation, sustainment, and modernization of tactical nuclear
114 delivery systems – the aircraft capable of delivering nuclear weapons over
115 shorter ranges – and the weapons they carry.”
- 116 • \$445 billion for the ancillary “laboratories and production facilities that support
117 nuclear weapons activities and command, control, communications, and early-
118 warning systems that enable the safe and secure operation of nuclear forces.”

119

120 ; and

121 WHEREAS, in 2019, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* called the enhancement
122 of older nuclear weapons arsenals “all but indistinguishable from a worldwide arms
123 race, and the military doctrines of Russia and the United States have increasingly
124 eroded the long-held taboo against the use of nuclear weapons.”; and
125

126 WHEREAS, as of August 2021, the United States Conference of Mayors, 57
127 American cities and local governments, two states, the Union of Concerned Scientists,
128 and many others have embraced the Back From the Brink organization’s five policy
129 “Call to Prevent Nuclear War”:
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- 131 • Renounce the US’ nuclear first strike or “flexible response” policy
- 132 • Remove the US’ nuclear weapons from being on “hair-trigger” or high alert
- 133 • Require checks and balances on the President’s current sole authority to launch
134 nuclear weapons
- 135 • Cancel US replacement of entire nuclear arsenal with enhancements
- 136 • Actively pursuing verifiable nuclear arms reductions between nuclear States with
137 the goal of total nuclear disarmament

138 ; and
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141 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
142 September 9, 2021, provided no recommendation regarding File No. 21-826, due to a
143 tie vote on a motion to recommend adoption (vote 2-2); now, therefore,
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145 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County endorses Back From the Brink’s “Call to
146 Prevent Nuclear War” and calls upon United States federal policymakers to step back
147 from the brink of nuclear war by:
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- 149 • Renouncing the US’ nuclear first strike or “flexible response” policy
- 150 • Removing the US’ nuclear weapons from being on “hair-trigger” or high alert
- 151 • Requiring checks and balances on the President’s current sole authority to
152 launch nuclear weapons
- 153 • Canceling US replacement of entire nuclear arsenal with enhancements
- 154 • Actively pursuing verifiable nuclear arms reductions between nuclear States with
155 the goal of total nuclear disarmament

156 ; and
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159 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County requests the County Clerk
160 provide this resolution to the President of the United States and members of the
161 Wisconsin Congressional Delegation who represent any part of Milwaukee County.

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164 09/09/21

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