

SENATE No. 2155

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 relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

SENATE No. 2155

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolution, Senate, No. 2155) of Joanne M. Comerford, Jack Patrick Lewis, Mike Connolly, James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to prohibit nuclear weapons. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

1 WHEREAS, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have
2 dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 14,500 of these weapons still exist and pose
3 an intolerable risk to human survival; and

4 WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States
5 and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North
6 Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

7 WHEREAS, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide
8 climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, small
9 by modern standards, if used to attack urban industrial targets would put at least five million tons
10 of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food
11 production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

12 WHEREAS, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly
13 and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping

14 temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions the
15 vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a
16 species; and

17 WHEREAS, despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are
18 never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use
19 these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

20 WHEREAS, nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their
21 use; and

22 WHEREAS, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, speaking about the
23 Cuban Missile Crisis, “It was luck that prevented nuclear war,” yet our nuclear policy cannot be
24 the hope that luck will continue; and

25 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will place increased stress on communities
26 around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, causing the danger of nuclear war will
27 grow; and

28 WHEREAS, the planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear
29 arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert
30 crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the
31 world; and

32 WHEREAS, there is an alternative to this march toward nuclear war: in July 2017, 122
33 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the
34 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now,

35 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Court calls on our federal leaders to
36 embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the
37 centerpiece of our national security policy; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, that the Legislature calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to
39 spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear
40 weapons first, ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking
41 U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with
42 enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to
43 eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

44 RESOLVED, that the clerk of the senate transmit copies of this resolution to the
45 President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
46 States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate,
47 and to each Senator and Representative from the commonwealth in the Congress of the United
48 States, and to the governor of the commonwealth.