RHODE ISLAND SENATE

January Session of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the fourth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty two.

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SEQUENCE NO. 133

TUESDAY, MAY 03, 2022
4:48:49 PM

CALENDAR
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE A BROAD RANGE OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR, TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW)

YEAS - 32

NAYS - 4

NOT VOTING - 2

RECUSED - 0

Y Acosta
Y Aligiere
Y Anderson
Y Archambault
Y Bell
Y Burke
Y Calkin
Y Cano
Y Glocos
Y Coyne
N de la Cruz
Y DiMario
Y DiPalma
Y Euer
Y Felag
Y Gallo
Y Goodwin
Y Kallman
Y Lawson
Y Lombardi
Y Lombardo
NV Mack
Y McCaffrey
Y Mendes
Y Miller
N Morgan
Y Murray
N Paolino
NV Pearson
Y Picard
Y Quezada
Y Raptakis
N Rogers
Y Severyn
Y Somowski
Y Valverde
Y Zurier
Y Mr. President
WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever created by mankind, with immense destructive capacity and lingering radiation effects after detonation; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-five percent (95%) of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia, and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, The use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized, small bombs by modern standards, would put at least five million tons of soot into the atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

WHEREAS, A large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the ice age; under such conditions, the vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a species; and

WHEREAS, Since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have reduced their active weapons by more than 25,000 nuclear weapons, but approximately 4,000 still exist on both sides, thousands of which are on alert for use on short notice; and
WHEREAS, Under current federal law, the President has the authority to unilaterally
initiate the use of nuclear weapons, and during times of crisis, individuals lower in the chain of
command might mistakenly do so; and

WHEREAS, Despite assurances that these receipts 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 at the last instance; and

WHEREAS, The power of the United States stockpile of nuclear weapons is too
devastating, and the result of their use too irreversible to be left to the sole authority of the
President; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their
use; and

WHEREAS, Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, in speaking about the
Czahom Missile Crisis, "It was back that prevented atomic war... yet our nuclear policy cannot be
rationed based on a hope that our luck will continue"; and

WHEREAS, The United States maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, capable
of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, greatly increasing the risk of
accidental, mistakes, or unauthorized launch; and

WHEREAS, As the effects of climate change place increased stress on consumables
around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

WHEREAS, The planned expenditure of more than $1 trillion to enhance our nuclear
arsenal, and the ever so many more trillions worldwide for similar expenditures by other nuclear
weapons countries will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster, but fuel a global arms race
and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and peoples
all over the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States taxpayers spend over $4 million every hour of every day
on nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, There is an alternative to this march toward nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, The United States, as well as the United Kingdom, China, France and
Russia, are obligated under the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to take
concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals but, since 1970, such steps have not been
forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of
Nuclear Weap...
produce, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten the use of nuclear weapons, and set out procedures for nuclear-armed signatories to destroy their existing nuclear stockpile; and

WHEREAS, A public renunciation of the option of launching a first strike would reduce tensions and may invite reciprocal public renunciations; and

WHEREAS, The United States, as well all other nuclear weapons powers are not yet signatories to this Treaty (TPNW); and

WHEREAS, A leadership role for the United States in the elimination of the existence of nuclear weapons is appropriate and desirable and could lead to new and fruitful international negotiations toward their elimination; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby urges the federal government to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons in a "first strike," ending the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling any plan to replace or modernize its nuclear arsenal with enhanced nuclear weapons, and, actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Senate further urges the President and the Senate of the United States to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE A BROAD RANGE OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR, TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW), TO MAKE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT THE CENTERPIECE OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY, AND TO SPREAD A GLOBAL EFFORT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR.

Presented by:

[Signatures]
I, Stacy DiCola, Acting Deputy Secretary of State of the State of Rhode Island hereby certify that the foregoing is a true xerographic copy of Senate Resolution 22R258 (22-S2423) entitled "Senate Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Pursue a Broad Range of Measures to Reduce the Danger of Nuclear War, to Sign and Ratify the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), to make Nuclear Disarmament the Centerpiece of our National Security Policy, and to Spearhead a Global Effort to Prevent Nuclear War" taken from the records in this office and compared with the original House Resolution 22R258 (22-S2423) passed in the House at the January session, A.D. 2022, on the third day of May A.D. 2022, and now remaining in this office.

Proposed by: Senators Mack, Bell, Euer, Burke, Calkin, F. Lombardi, Acosta, Anderson and Lawson

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island this fifteenth day of June, A.D. 2022.