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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Tarleton, Tharinger, and Pollet

Read first time 02/07/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Nearly fourteen thousand five hundred nuclear weapons  
9 still exist in the world and pose an intolerable risk to human  
10 survival; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States has roughly six thousand four hundred  
12 fifty nuclear weapons, constituting the world's most lethal nuclear  
13 weapons capability along with the Russian Federation; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States is currently planning to spend at  
15 least one trillion two hundred million dollars rebuilding our entire  
16 nuclear weapons arsenal, which takes funding away from conventional  
17 military needs and social programs like education, health care, and  
18 infrastructure; and

19 WHEREAS, The use and detonation of even a small number of nuclear  
20 weapons could have catastrophic human, environmental, and economic  
21 consequences globally; and

1       WHEREAS, These weapons pose a threat simply by existing, due to  
2 the possibility of accidents and miscalculations, many of which have  
3 been documented in the past; and

4       WHEREAS, In July 2017, one hundred twenty-two nations called for  
5 the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the  
6 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

7       WHEREAS, The United States Constitution gives Congress the sole  
8 power to declare war; and

9       WHEREAS, Despite this, the President currently has de facto sole  
10 authority to launch a nuclear attack on his or her own, without any  
11 required consultation or any system of checks and balances; and

12       WHEREAS, By any definition of war, a first-use nuclear strike  
13 from the United States would constitute a major act of war; and

14       WHEREAS, Washington state citizens benefit from the safety and  
15 security provided by existing nuclear arms reductions treaties,  
16 including the Intermediate-Range Forces (INF) Treaty and the New  
17 START Treaty; and

18       WHEREAS, A single nuclear detonation in any major city in  
19 Washington could cause hundreds of thousands of immediate fatalities,  
20 hundreds of thousands of injuries and illnesses from radiation, and  
21 devastating destruction of agricultural land and natural resources  
22 for decades; and

23       WHEREAS, Washington state has the largest collection of deployed  
24 nuclear weapons in the Western Hemisphere, at Naval Base Kitsap-  
25 Bangor on Hood Canal, just twenty miles from Seattle, Washington; and

26       WHEREAS, This nuclear weapons installation, added to Washington  
27 state's large city centers and many other military installations,  
28 makes our state a primary target in the event of a nuclear exchange;  
29 and

30       WHEREAS, Washington state is home to many other nuclear weapons  
31 sites and nuclear reactor facilities, including: The Hanford Nuclear  
32 Site, the most contaminated nuclear site in the Western Hemisphere,  
33 The Midnite Mine, a former nuclear weapons uranium mine located on  
34 the Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation, and one of the largest  
35 populations of Marshall Islanders in the United States, whose home  
36 was the site of sixty-seven atmospheric nuclear weapons tests during  
37 the Cold War; and

38       WHEREAS, These nuclear weapons sites and activities  
39 disproportionately affect communities of color and indigenous people,  
40 none of whom have been adequately compensated for the environmental

1 and health consequences of nuclear weapons activities pursued by the  
2 United States government during the fifty years of the Cold War; and

3 WHEREAS, These nuclear weapons and nuclear-related activities in  
4 Washington state makes this a uniquely local responsibility for  
5 Washington state to lead a national conversation about reducing and  
6 eliminating the threat of nuclear war, and revamping our federal  
7 strategy, which is also known as mutually assured destruction (MAD);  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Washington's citizens, and all Americans have an  
10 inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and  
11 to live a life free from the threat of nuclear weapons; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States could lead a global effort to prevent  
13 nuclear war by:

- 14 (1) Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- 15 (2) Ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a  
16 nuclear attack;
- 17 (3) Taking United States nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- 18 (4) Canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with next  
19 generation nuclear weapons; and
- 20 (5) Actively pursuing a verifiable, multilateral agreement among  
21 nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
23 take appropriate steps to move back from the brink of nuclear war by  
24 establishing a system of checks and balances to ensure that the  
25 President shall no longer have the sole, unchecked authority to  
26 launch nuclear weapons, except in circumstances of retaliation to a  
27 nuclear attack, and making it the policy of the United States to not  
28 use nuclear weapons first.

29 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
30 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
31 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
32 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State  
33 of Washington.

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