

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 11-18

INTRODUCED BY: MedChi Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: Nuclear War

---

Whereas, a large scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable human suffering and environmental damage<sup>1</sup>; and

Whereas, even the use of just one small nuclear bomb, such as the 15 kt bomb that was used in Hiroshima, can cause 70,000 immediate deaths in a city of 250,000<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas, in Hiroshima, 90% of the doctors, 88% of the nurses, and 90% of the hospitals were incapacitated due to severely damaged infrastructure, which prevented bombing victims from receiving any significant medical attention; and

Whereas, the United States does not have more than 1700 burn beds<sup>3</sup> and is not prepared to provide treatment to victims of that magnitude; and

Whereas, the U.S. and Russia have a total of 1800 nuclear weapons on “hair-trigger alert,” and can be launched to strike halfway around the world within minutes and cannot be recalled<sup>4</sup>; and

Whereas, the President of the United States has the sole authority to order a nuclear strike<sup>5</sup>; and

Whereas, the decision to spend 1.25 trillion dollars over the next 30 years<sup>6</sup> on nuclear weapons and delivery systems prevents the U.S from funding basic health needs<sup>7</sup>; and

Whereas, even a limited nuclear war could launch enough debris into the upper atmosphere to lower temperatures worldwide, reduce farm production, and thus, precipitate food shortages or even starvation<sup>8</sup>; and

Whereas, the American Medical Association (AMA) passed a resolution at the 2015 Annual Meeting<sup>9</sup> urging nations’ leaders “to continue to work to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons,” as well as “to work with all stakeholders to educate the public to the medical and environmental

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/projected-us-casualties-and-destruction.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/mp10.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/mp10.asp)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18182929>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2015/05/Hair-Trigger-Alert-Policy-Brief.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2017/11/21/565726358/lawmakers-fear-president-trumps-authority-to-launch-nuclear-weapons>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/53211-nuclearforces.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” Dwight David Eisenhower, “The Chance for Peace,” a speech given to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Apr. 16, 1953

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/two-billion-at-risk.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://wire.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ama-urges-elimination-nuclear-weapons>

consequences of nuclear war”; and therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi join our AMA in educating the public of the severe medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war.

---

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on April 29, 2018.

Reference: <https://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear-weapons/back-from-brink#.WrJsXq6nGUk>