

**Minute in Support of the Milwaukee Common Council
“Back from the Brink” Nuclear Disarmament Resolution
Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
(Approved at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on February 16, 2025)**

We members of the Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends support the City of Milwaukee “Back from the Brink” Nuclear Disarmament Resolution. This Resolution is being introduced in cities and states all over the US as part of a national grassroots initiative seeking to fundamentally change U.S. nuclear weapons policy. A copy of this resolution will be sent to Representative Gwen Moore, Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, and President Donald Trump.

Milwaukee seeks to be a diverse community where residents have enough to eat, are educated, housed, and supported in finding their place in society with freedom and equality. Investment in our schools, affordable housing, health services and infrastructure should take priority over weapons of mass destruction, yet Milwaukee residents paid \$108 million in federal income tax dollars for US nuclear weapon programs in fiscal year 2024.

Though the United States is obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals, the defense department expects to spend 75.6 billion dollars annually for the next 10 years to replace the current nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons.

In the knowledge that the detonation of even a small number of today’s nuclear weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences affecting everyone on the planet, and in the belief that our lives are made profoundly less safe by current US policy we support the Milwaukee Common Council’s call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- *actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;
- *renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- *ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- *taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and
- *cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

Additionally, Milwaukee Common Council calls on the United States to join the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Socially responsible investment is a way of putting our beliefs into action. Milwaukee Friends Meeting no longer invests in companies concerned with the production of nuclear weapons, but in constructive, life-giving industries, and in so doing hopes to ensure a future for our children.

Milwaukee *Back from the Brink* Nuclear Disarmament Resolution

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Whereas nine nations collectively have approximately 12,000 nuclear weapons in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945;

Whereas the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect everyone on the planet;

Whereas the United States continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely;

Whereas the U.S. president has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons;

Whereas the United States maintains several hundred nuclear missiles in underground silos and on submarines on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch;

Whereas over the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 trillion to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more enhanced versions;

Whereas taxpayers spend over \$2 million every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal;

Whereas Milwaukee, Wisconsin residents (based on their per capita income) will pay \$108 million in federal income tax dollars for the US nuclear weapon programs in fiscal year 2024 (tax year 2023),

Whereas federal funds are desperately needed in communities like Milwaukee for health care, affordable housing, education, food security and development of sustainable energy sources;

Whereas the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals;

Whereas in July 2017, 122 nations - but not the United States - approved the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** which entered into force on January 22, 2021, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

Whereas a grassroots movement in the US called “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” has been endorsed by over 400 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and has resulted in resolutions approved by numerous municipalities, including the cities of Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Salt Lake City, and Washington DC, as well as the states of California and Oregon;

Whereas Milwaukee citizens voted overwhelmingly, by a ratio of more than 3 to 1, in a 1982 referendum to freeze nuclear weapons production;

Whereas the City of Milwaukee since 2006 has been a member of Mayors For Peace, which has endorsed the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors [adopted a resolution](#) in September 2021, endorsing **Back from the Brink’s** five policy solutions to prevent nuclear war.

Therefore, the Milwaukee Common Council calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;
- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;

- taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

And be it further resolved that (name of city or town) calls on the United States to embrace the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution will be sent to (names of U.S. Representatives and Senators) and the US President.

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