

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 22

Joint resolution urging the President and Congress to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war and opposing the basing of nuclear weapons in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Small of Winooski, Troiano of Stannard, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Colston of Winooski, Cordes of Lincoln, Dolan of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Townsend of South Burlington, Vyhovsky of Essex, White of Hartford, Whitman of Bennington, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, there are approximately 13,000 nuclear weapons in the world, posing an intolerable risk to human survival, and an overwhelming majority of these weapons belong to the United States and Russia, with the balance belonging to other nations, and

Whereas, the current conflict in Ukraine demonstrates that the possession of nuclear weapons does not prevent war, but, rather, empowers the nations that control these weapons by dissuading other countries from responding effectively to unfathomable instances of military aggression, and

Whereas, there is an alternative to this march to nuclear war, and

Whereas, in July 2017, representatives of over 135 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons through the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was entered into force on January 22, 2021, and

Whereas, in 1982, the General Assembly, in response to the adoption at over 160 town meetings of the nonbinding question asking: "Shall the State Senators and Representatives from this district be advised to introduce into the Vermont Legislature a resolution asking the Vermont Congressional Delegation to: Request the President of the United States to propose to the Soviet Union a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons, with verification safeguards satisfactory to both countries," adopted J.R.H. 55 (1982 Acts and Resolves No. R-82) asking the Vermont Congressional Delegation to make this request of the President, and

Whereas, both these town meeting votes and the General Assembly's adopting of the joint resolution were significant political statements in support of a verifiable nuclear freeze, and

Whereas, although a nuclear freeze did not occur, the broad political support for this proposal contributed to a major reduction in the world's

nuclear arsenals, and in 2022, many Vermonters again desire to lead the effort to prevent nuclear war, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress and the President to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- (1) renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- (2) adding additional protections to ensure that the President does not have sole and unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- (3) taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- (4) encouraging the Biden Administration neither to upgrade nor replace nuclear-equipped intercontinental ballistic missiles, ballistic-missile submarines, and long-range strategic bombers, and
- (5) actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed nations to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly reaffirms its adoption of 1982 Acts and Resolves No. R-82 in opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and opposes the basing of nuclear weapons in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott, President Joseph R. Biden, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.