**Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons and**

**Banning the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

**WHEREAS** 9.26.010 of the Skagit County Code known as the “[Skagit County Nuclear Weapons Free Zone](about:blank#9.26.010)” states: “Skagit County shall be and is hereby declared to be a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, within which all development, testing, transportation, deployment, storage, manufacture or usage of nuclear weapons is prohibited.” (Res. 10491 (part), 1985);

**WHEREAS** the Washington State Democrats passed a resolution restricting first use of nuclear weapons on June 16, 2018 and September 10, 2017;

**WHEREAS** the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the power to declare war." Congress having the authority to provide funding. . . or withhold funding. Congress, as such, maintaining a separation of Powers granted by the Constitution, has the power . . . .to declare war;

**WHEREAS** the President currently has sole authority to launch a first-use nuclear strike, a policy that increases the risk of nuclear war and is vulnerable to accidents and miscommunication;

**WHEREAS** U.S. policies such as maintaining nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert and refusing to adopt an explicit “no-first use” policy, are destabilizing and threaten national security;

**WHEREAS** reducing the dangers from nuclear weapons remains one of the highest national security priorities;

**WHEREAS** one Trident submarine has the potential destructive equivalent of over 5,800 Hiroshima bombs;

**WHEREAS** retaining the current US arsenal of nearly 7,000 nuclear weapons defies common sense and fiscal responsibility, at a time when we need housing, healthcare, public education, and a response to climate change;

**WHEREAS** 122 UN member countries voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons;

**WHEREAS** globallywe know that no one wins a nuclear war and there is no such thing as a limited nuclear war;

**WHEREAS globally** we all breathe the same air and drink the same water, and must prevent the possibility of accidental or deliberate nuclear war;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Skagit County Democrats call on our Washington Congressional delegation and Senators Murray and Cantwell to support [H.R. 669](about:blank) and [S. 200](about:blank) of 2018 and 2019 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act that would prevent the President from unilaterally launching a nuclear first strike without a Congressional Declaration of War Authorization;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Skagit County Democrats urge state legislators from Skagit County to support and vote for [HJM 4008](about:blank) and [SJM 8006](about:blank) of 2019-20 Requesting that Congress establish more checks and balances to reduce the possibility of nuclear war;

**THEREFORE BE IT** **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Skagit County Democrats urge our Federal and State legislators to co-sponsor and pass such legislation to Restrict First Use of Nuclear Weapons and instead invest in diplomacy, seeking peace, and the critical democratic needs of all of our citizens and preserve our national security;

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be posted to the resolutions page of the Skagit County Democratic Party Website and mailed, by United States Postal Service, to Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell; to District 1 Congresswoman DelBene and District 2 Congressman Larsen: to Legislative District 10 Senator Muzzal, Representative Smith and Representative Paul; to Legislative District 39; Senator Wagoner, Representative Eslick and Representative Sutherland; to Legislative District 40 Senator Lovelett , Representative Lekanoff, and Representative Morris; and to Governor Inslee and Attorney General Ferguson.**

Adopted by Skagit County Democrats, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(date)

D.M. McKern, Secy.