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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The use and detonation of even a small number of nuclear  
weapons could have catastrophic human, environmental, and economic  
consequences globally; and
WHEREAS, These weapons pose a threat simply by existing, due to
the possibility of accidents and miscalculations, many of which have
been documented in the past; and
WHEREAS, In July 2017, one hundred twenty-two nations called for
the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the
Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and
WHEREAS, The United States Constitution gives Congress the sole
power to declare war; and
WHEREAS, Despite this, the President currently has de facto sole
authority to launch a nuclear attack on his or her own, without any
required consultation or any system of checks and balances; and
WHEREAS, By any definition of war, a first-use nuclear strike
from the United States would constitute a major act of war; and
WHEREAS, Washington state citizens benefit from the safety and
security provided by existing nuclear arms reductions treaties,
including the Intermediate-Range Forces (INF) Treaty and the New
START Treaty; and
WHEREAS, A single nuclear detonation in any major city in
Washington could cause hundreds of thousands of immediate fatalities,
hundreds of thousands of injuries and illnesses from radiation, and
devastating destruction of agricultural land and natural resources
for decades; and
WHEREAS, Washington state has the largest collection of deployed
nuclear weapons in the Western Hemisphere, at Naval Base Kitsap-
Bangor on Hood Canal, just twenty miles from Seattle, Washington; and
WHEREAS, This nuclear weapons installation, added to Washington
state's large city centers and many other military installations,
makes our state a primary target in the event of a nuclear exchange;
and
WHEREAS, Washington state is home to many other nuclear weapons
sites and nuclear reactor facilities, including: The Hanford Nuclear
Site, the most contaminated nuclear site in the Western Hemisphere,
The Midnite Mine, a former nuclear weapons uranium mine located on
the Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation, and one of the largest
populations of Marshall Islanders in the United States, whose home
was the site of sixty-seven atmospheric nuclear weapons tests during
the Cold War; and
WHEREAS, These nuclear weapons sites and activities
disproportionately affect communities of color and indigenous people,
none of whom have been adequately compensated for the environmental
and health consequences of nuclear weapons activities pursued by the United States government during the fifty years of the Cold War; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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