

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 595

To prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2021

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear SLCM Ban
5 Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States nuclear arsenal com-
2 prises approximately 3,800 nuclear warheads in the
3 active stockpile and a force structure of long-range
4 and short-range delivery systems, including—

5 (A) land-based intercontinental ballistic
6 missiles;

7 (B) submarine-launched ballistic missiles
8 that can deliver both low-yield and higher-yield
9 nuclear warheads;

10 (C) long-range strategic bomber aircraft
11 capable of carrying nuclear-armed air-launched
12 cruise missile and nuclear gravity bombs; and

13 (D) short-range fighter aircraft that can
14 deliver nuclear gravity bombs.

15 (2) In 2010, the United States retired the nu-
16 clear-armed sea-launched cruise missile, or the
17 TLAM–N, after concluding in the 2010 Nuclear
18 Posture Review that the capability “serve[d] a re-
19 dundant purpose in the U.S. nuclear stockpile”.

20 (3) Ten years later, in 2020, the United States
21 initiated studies into a new nuclear-armed sea-
22 launched cruise missile and associated warhead,
23 after concluding in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Re-
24 view that the weapon system would provide a “non-

1 strategic regional presence” and “an assured re-
2 sponse capability”.

3 (4) The United States possesses an array of nu-
4 clear weapons systems, including both air- and sea-
5 based capabilities, that provide an effective regional
6 deterrent presence, making the nuclear-armed sea-
7 launched cruise missile a redundant, unnecessary ca-
8 pability.

9 (5) Deploying nuclear-armed sea-launched
10 cruise missiles on attack submarines or surface ships
11 risks detracting from the core military missions of
12 such submarines and ships, such as tracking enemy
13 submarines, protecting United States carrier groups,
14 and conducting conventional strikes on priority land
15 targets.

16 (6) Stationing nuclear-armed sea-launched
17 cruise missiles on such submarines or ships also
18 risks complicating port visits and joint operations
19 with some allies and partners of the United States,
20 which in turn would reduce the operational effective-
21 ness of such submarines and ships and the deterrent
22 value of deployed nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise
23 missiles.

24 (7) A January 2019 analysis of the Congres-
25 sional Budget Office estimated that the projected

1 costs of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise mis-
2 sile program from 2019 to 2028 would total
3 \$9,000,000,000, adding additional costs and re-
4 source requirements to the United States nuclear
5 modernization program and increasing pressure on
6 the Navy budget as the Navy plans for increases in
7 shipbuilding while funding the Columbia-class sub-
8 marine program.

9 (8) The cost of the nuclear-armed sea-launched
10 cruise missile program will be larger, as the estimate
11 of the Congressional Budget Office did not account
12 for costs related to integrating nuclear-armed sea-
13 launched cruise missiles on attack submarines or
14 surface ships, nuclear weapons-specific training for
15 Navy personnel, or storage and security for nuclear
16 warheads.

17 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR RESEARCH**
18 **AND DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, OR DE-**
19 **PLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR-ARMED SEA-**
20 **LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE AND ASSOCI-**
21 **ATED WARHEAD.**

22 None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or
23 otherwise made available for fiscal year 2022 or any fiscal
24 year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the De-
25 partment of Energy may be obligated or expended for the

- 1 research and development, production, or deployment of
- 2 the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its as-
- 3 sociated nuclear warhead.

○