



Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

PRESS RELEASE:

WA STATE DEMOCRATS PASS ANTI-NUCLEAR RESOLUTIONS

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SEATTLE, WA (June 26, 2018) – At the Washington State Democratic Convention on June 16, two anti-nuclear weapons resolutions were passed, signaling strong opposition by the Democratic party to current US nuclear policy. These resolutions follow on the heels of many similar resolutions passed in local Democratic groups across the state. The issues addressed by the resolutions include [restricting the “first-use” of nuclear weapons](#) and [opposing the costly rebuild of the US nuclear weapons arsenal](#).

“These resolutions are of major significance,” said Dr. Bruce Amundson, WPSR Vice-President. “They show that key leaders and members of the state Democratic Party have taken unequivocal positions opposing the nation’s current nuclear weapons policies. Washington members of Congress need to take note because it shows that citizens are ahead of most of our elected officials when it comes to responsible and humanitarian nuclear policies.”

The two resolutions call for new policies around nuclear weapons use. There are a number of similar bills currently introduced in Congress. These include the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act ([HR 669/S200](#)), co-sponsored by Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Denny Heck in WA, and a [bill introduced by Rep. Adam Smith](#) to enact a “No First Use” policy in the United States. The first would require Congressional authorization to use nuclear weapons first in conflict, and the second would make it policy that the US would *never* be the first to launch a nuclear weapon. In addition, these resolutions address the significant cost of current plans to rebuild the US nuclear arsenal, a topic of significant debate in this years’ budget process.

Similar resolutions have passed among Democratic groups in Jefferson, Pierce, and Clallam Counties; by the King County Metropolitan Democrat Club; and in the 37th, 36th, 32nd, and 27th Districts. These resolutions were passed amid a flood of nuclear weapons-related news this year. This has included a near crisis and historic summit between the United States and North Korea, President Trump withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the Iran Deal), and

the release of a new federal Nuclear Posture Review that includes plans to rebuild the US nuclear arsenal at a [cost of \\$1.7 trillion](#) over the next 30 years, with inflation.

This issue is particularly relevant in Washington State, where the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US sits just 20 miles from Seattle at the Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base.

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Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR), a statewide organization of over 800 health professionals, engages the community to create a healthy, peaceful and sustainable world. WPSR has been engaged in activism to prevent nuclear war for nearly 40 years. WPSR is an organizational member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their work in passing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Learn more about WPSR at www.wpsr.org and follow us on Twitter at [@psr_washington](https://twitter.com/psr_washington).