

RESOLUTION

Calling for the United States to Sign the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

- WHEREAS, nuclear weapons cannot be used without catastrophic health and humanitarian consequences that violate every principle of international law, natural justice, public health, environmental protection and human morality; and
- WHEREAS, the continued existence of these weapons poses an intolerable risk to human survival; and
- WHEREAS, the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China, signed and ratified a legally binding commitment more than 50 years ago to negotiate "in good faith" and "at an early date" the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and
- WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice ruled, in their 1996 Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Nuclear Weapons, that the legally binding commitment to negotiate means "bringing those negotiations to a successful conclusion;" and
- WHEREAS, in the year 2000 the United States, together with Britain, France, Russia and China gave an "unequivocal undertaking" to 187 other nations that they would fulfill their commitment to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals; and
- WHEREAS, in July 2017, 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, possess, stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons[1]; and
- WHEREAS, once this Treaty enters in force, it will be illegal in all countries who are party to this Treaty to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Treaty; and
- WHEREAS, more and more countries will continue to sign and ratify this Treaty, including sooner or later many key allies of the United States; and
- WHEREAS, this means that the United States will find it increasingly difficult to develop, manufacture, deploy or justify its continued dependence on nuclear weapons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call upon the President of the United States to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to invite the other eight nuclear nations to do likewise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call upon our federal leaders and our nation to take immediate steps in the meantime to reduce the threat posed by the continued existence of these weapons and to prevent the possibility of nuclear war taking place by accident, miscalculation or design, by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the president's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- leading a global effort to reduce tensions, particularly with Russia, through dialogue, diplomacy and other confidence-building measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell.

Submitted by Gail Chatfield 360-437-0177

Gail Chatfield *Cynthia K...* *Ellen M. O'Shea*
Bill & Storch Stern *Barbara K...*
Larry Chambers *Miriam Murdoch*
David W. K... *Linda Brewster*
Delma Shachman