

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Joint Memorial 5**

Ordered by the Senate May 15  
Including Senate Amendments dated May 15

Sponsored by Senator DEMBROW, Representatives SANCHEZ, KENY-GUYER; Senators FREDERICK, GOLDEN, MANNING JR, MONNES ANDERSON, STEINER HAYWARD, Representatives EVANS, GOMBERG, HELM, LIVELY, MARSH, MCLAIN, NOSSE, POWER, REARDON, WILLIAMS (at the request of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges Congress to lead global effort to reduce threat of nuclear war.

**JOINT MEMORIAL**

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Eightieth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative  
5 session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas nearly 14,500 nuclear weapons still exist in the world and pose an intolerable risk to  
7 human survival; and

8 Whereas the United States has roughly 6,450 nuclear weapons, constituting the world's most  
9 lethal nuclear weapons capability, and it is the only country to have used nuclear weapons in war;  
10 and

11 Whereas nuclear weapons pose a threat simply by existing, due to the possibility of accidents  
12 and miscalculations, many of which have been documented in the past; and

13 Whereas the United States is currently planning to spend at least \$1.2 trillion rebuilding our  
14 entire nuclear weapons arsenal; and

15 Whereas Oregon taxpayers spend approximately \$188 million on nuclear weapons annually,  
16 which takes funding away from necessary programs such as education, health care, infrastructure  
17 and the environment; and

18 Whereas in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting  
19 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

20 Whereas the United States Constitution gives Congress the sole power to declare war, but the  
21 President of the United States currently has de facto sole authority to order nuclear attacks, with-  
22 out any required consultation or any system of checks and balances; and

23 Whereas Oregonians currently benefit from the safety and security provided by existing nuclear  
24 arms reduction treaties, including the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons,  
25 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and New START, and previously benefited from the  
26 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and

27 Whereas members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation, including Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Merkle and Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio and Suzanne Bonamici, are leaders  
2 in Congress on nuclear disarmament and have cosponsored legislation to end nuclear first strike  
3 capability, reduce spending on nuclear weapons and support the INF treaty; and

4 Whereas plutonium for the bomb the United States dropped on Nagasaki was produced at the  
5 Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a site on the banks of the Columbia River in the State of Washington  
6 that displaced area residents, affected the health of “Downwinders” and caused sacred sites, villages  
7 and fishing areas of Native American tribes to be lost; and

8 Whereas the Hanford Site, upriver from Oregon, remains the most toxic contamination site in  
9 the Western Hemisphere, a nuclear sacrifice zone that threatens the health and environment of our  
10 region; and

11 Whereas the Marshall Islands were the site of 67 nuclear weapons tests by the United States  
12 during the Cold War, and Oregon currently has one of the largest populations of Marshall Islanders  
13 in the nation, many of whom continue to suffer health consequences from their home being used as  
14 a nuclear sacrifice zone; and

15 Whereas the service and suffering of all atomic veterans was acknowledged by the State of  
16 Oregon in 2005 with the designation of July 16 every year as Atomic Veterans Day, and in 2017  
17 with the designation of Interstate 5 between Salem and Albany as Atomic Veterans Memorial  
18 Highway; and

19 Whereas Oregon has been home to many courageous people who have dedicated their lives to  
20 the eradication of nuclear weapons, including Hiroshima survivor Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider of  
21 Medford, Hanford cleanup advocate and Yakama Nation Elder Russell Jim, Nobel Peace Prize re-  
22 cipient Linus Pauling, Hanford “Downwinder” Pat Hoover of Eugene and Carol Urner, who organ-  
23 ized the first Hiroshima commemoration in Portland in 1962; and

24 Whereas nuclear weapons-related mining, milling, production, testing, storage and use dispro-  
25 proportionately affect communities of color, indigenous peoples and women, and adequate compensation  
26 has not been made for the environmental and health consequences of nuclear weapons activities  
27 pursued by the federal government during the 50 years of the Cold War, most often on Native  
28 American land; and

29 Whereas in order to survive climate change and pursue social justice, we will need our brightest  
30 scientific minds and limited resources to no longer be squandered on weapons, because as the cli-  
31 mate crisis increases stress on communities around the world and intensifies the likelihood of con-  
32 flict, the potential for nuclear war will grow; and

33 Whereas a single nuclear detonation in a major city in Oregon could cause hundreds of thou-  
34 sands of immediate fatalities, hundreds of thousands of injuries and illnesses from radiation and  
35 devastating effects on agricultural land and natural resources for decades; and

36 Whereas the Oregon cities of Ashland, Beaverton, Corvallis, Eugene, Lincoln City, Portland and  
37 Tualatin are all “Mayors for Peace” cities that have supported the call from the mayors of  
38 Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons; and

39 Whereas Oregonians have the human right to live a life free from nuclear contamination and  
40 the threat posed by the reckless use of nuclear weapons; now, therefore,

41 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

42 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of  
43 the United States to take appropriate steps and fulfill its ethical obligation to its people to lead a  
44 global effort to prevent nuclear war by establishing a system of checks and balances to ensure that  
45 the President of the United States no longer has the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear

1 weapons, renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off  
2 hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with next-generation  
3 nuclear weapons and actively pursuing a verifiable and multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed  
4 states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

5 Resolved, That the State of Oregon supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons  
6 and we call upon the federal government to join the treaty; and be it further

7 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to  
8 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member  
9 of Congress.

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