

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 216

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass “Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



AR216 PINKIN

2

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United State Congress to
2 pass the “Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of
3 2017.”

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Nuclear weapons are uniquely powerful instruments with
6 the capability to instantly kill millions of people, including
7 noncombatants and children, and to create long-term health and
8 environmental damage throughout the world, including the lands
9 and people of the nation using them; and

10 **WHEREAS**, These weapons have the capability to directly undermine
11 global peace and place the United States at risk of retaliatory
12 nuclear strikes; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Global spiritual leaders have noted that nuclear weapons
14 exist in the service of a mentality of fear that affects not only parties
15 in conflict but the entire human race, so that the real priorities
16 facing our human family, such as the fight against poverty, the
17 promotion of peace, and the undertaking of educational, ecological,
18 and health care projects are relegated to second place; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The United States possesses the world’s paramount nuclear
20 weapons capability, as well as its paramount conventional warfare
21 capability; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The United States Constitution gives Congress the sole
23 power to declare war, and by any definition of war, a first-use
24 nuclear strike from the United States would constitute a major act
25 of war; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017
27 embodies a policy of prohibiting first use of nuclear weapons
28 without a Congressional Declaration of War and a requirement of a
29 specific authorization by Congress for first use of nuclear weapons,
30 without limiting retaliation for another party’s first use, all
31 consistent with the United States Constitution; and

32 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s coastal location, business hub of cities, and
33 critical military infrastructure make it particularly vulnerable to
34 attack; and

35 **WHEREAS**, The framers of the United States Constitution understood
36 that the monumental decision to go to war, which can result in
37 massive death and the destruction of civilized society, must be
38 made by the representatives of the people in Congress and not by a
39 single person; and

40 **WHEREAS**, The United State Congress should call for checks on the
41 sole authority of the United States President to launch a nuclear
42 weapon, and pass the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act
43 of 2017; now, therefore,

44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
46 *Jersey:*

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1 1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to
2 take up and pass the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act
3 of 2017.

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5 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
6 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
7 President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and
8 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
9 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and
10 each member of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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15 This resolution respectfully urges the United States Congress to
16 take up and pass the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act
17 of 2017.

18 Nuclear weapons are uniquely powerful instruments with the
19 capability to instantly kill millions of people, and to create long-
20 term health and environmental damage throughout the world.
21 These weapons have the capability to directly undermine global
22 peace and place the United States at risk of retaliatory nuclear
23 strikes.

24 The United States Constitution gives Congress the sole power to
25 declare war, and by any definition of war, a first-use nuclear strike
26 from the United States would constitute a major act of war. The
27 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017 embodies a
28 policy of prohibiting first use of nuclear weapons without a
29 Congressional Declaration of War and a requirement of a specific
30 authorization by Congress for first use of nuclear weapons without
31 limiting retaliation for another party's first use, all consistent with
32 the United States Constitution.

33 The framers of the United States Constitution understood that the
34 monumental decision to go to war must be made by the
35 representatives of the people in Congress and not by a single
36 person. The United State Congress should call for checks on the
37 sole authority of the United States President to launch a nuclear
38 weapon, and pass the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act
39 of 2017.