

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 12

Joint resolution urging Congress to establish a system of checks and balances for a decision to launch a nuclear attack

Offered by: Representatives Sullivan of Burlington, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Hooper of Montpelier, Jessup of Middlesex, McCullough of Williston, Scheu of Middlebury, and Squirrel of Underhill

Whereas, the President of the United States has the sole authority to launch a nuclear attack, without consulting anyone else and with no system of checks and balances, and

Whereas, the first use of nuclear weapons would almost inevitably result in a retaliatory strike and potentially could result in the total destruction of any of our communities, and

Whereas, for example, a single 300-ton nuclear detonation from what is considered a small nuclear bomb centered on Boston, Massachusetts, would result in an estimated 11,310 deaths and 22,590 injuries, and

Whereas, all Americans have the right to live a life free from the threat of the reckless use of nuclear weapons, and

Whereas, the detonation of even a small number of nuclear weapons would result in global catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to establish a system of checks and balances for a decision to launch a nuclear attack, to ensure that the President of the United States no longer has the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons except for purposes of retaliation, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.