

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs to which was
3 referred Joint House Resolution 22 entitled “Joint resolution urging the
4 President and Congress to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war and
5 opposing the basing of nuclear weapons in Vermont” respectfully reports that
6 it has considered the same and recommends that the resolution be amended by
7 striking out all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 Whereas, in 1980, there were more than 54,000 nuclear weapons
9 worldwide, and by 1985 this number had increased to more than 61,000, and

10 Whereas, in 1982, the General Assembly, in response to the adoption at
11 over 160 town meetings of the nonbinding question asking: “Shall the State
12 Senators and Representatives from this district be advised to introduce into the
13 Vermont Legislature a resolution asking the Vermont Congressional
14 Delegation to: Request the President of the United States to propose to the
15 Soviet Union a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of
16 nuclear weapons and of missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver
17 nuclear weapons, with verification safeguards satisfactory to both countries,”
18 adopted J.R.H. 55 (1982 Acts and Resolves No. R-82) asking the Vermont
19 Congressional Delegation to make this request of the President, and

1 Whereas, both these town meeting votes and the General Assembly’s
2 adopting of the joint resolution were significant political statements in support
3 of a verifiable nuclear freeze, and

4 Whereas, although a nuclear freeze did not occur, the broad political
5 support for this proposal contributed to a major reduction in the world’s
6 nuclear arsenals, and

7 Whereas, as of 2020, there were more than 13,000 nuclear weapons in the
8 world, and an overwhelming majority of these weapons belonged to the United
9 States and Russia, with the balance belonging to other nations, and

10 Whereas, in 2010, the updated Nuclear Posture Review outlined the Obama
11 Administration’s approach to reducing nuclear risks and pursuing the goal of a
12 world without nuclear weapons while maintaining the security interests of the
13 United States, and

14 Whereas, in 2011, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New
15 START) between the United States and Russia took effect, which provided for
16 halving the number of strategic nuclear missile launchers and developing a
17 new inspection and verification system and, in 2021, was extended to an
18 anticipated termination date of February 5, 2026, and

19 Whereas, in July 2017, representatives of over 135 nations called for the
20 elimination of all nuclear weapons through the adoption of the Treaty on the

1 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was entered into force on January 22,
2 2021, and

3 Whereas, in 2022, global tensions, military conflicts, and perceived changes
4 in nuclear doctrine in countries such as Russia, China and Iran have led to fears
5 of the use of nuclear weapons, inspiring in a number of Vermonters a desire to
6 lead the effort to prevent nuclear war, now therefore be it

7 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

8 That the General Assembly urges Congress and the President to spearhead a
9 global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

10 (1) committing to preparing an updated Nuclear Posture Review that will
11 assert the intent of the United States to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in
12 its deterrence and defense policies and to continue to reduce its nuclear
13 weapons stockpile;

14 (2) establishing additional protections to ensure that the President does not
15 have the sole and unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;

16 (3) adding more protections to the current hair-trigger alert system for U.S.
17 nuclear weapons to lower the risk of accidental or unauthorized launches; and

18 (4) actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed nations
19 to eliminate their nuclear arsenals and other offensive weapons of mass-
20 destruction, such as biological weapons, in a way that reduces and eliminates

1 the need for nuclear weapons as instruments of mutually assured destruction,
2 and be it further

3 Resolved: That the General Assembly reaffirms its adoption of 1982 Acts
4 and Resolves No. R-82 in opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weapons
5 and opposes the basing of nuclear weapons in Vermont, and be it further

6 Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this
7 resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott, President Joseph R. Biden, and the
8 Vermont Congressional Delegation.

9 (Committee vote: _____)

10

11

Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE