

House Resolution 3 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY ANDERSON

1 A Resolution urging Iowa's congressional delegation to
2 take all necessary measures to limit the authority
3 of any President of the United States to order a
4 preemptive launch of nuclear weapons.

5 WHEREAS, there are over 15,000 nuclear weapons
6 globally, most of which are possessed by the United
7 States and Russia, and most of which are significantly
8 more destructive than those dropped on Hiroshima and
9 Nagasaki, Japan, during World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, use and detonation of even a small number
11 of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic human,
12 environmental, and economic consequences globally,
13 impacting everyone on the planet; and

14 WHEREAS, the first use of nuclear weapons, including
15 by the United States, against any other nuclear-armed
16 nation could result in that nation's immediate
17 retaliation and invite the near-total destruction of
18 the United States, including the state of Iowa; and

19 WHEREAS, according to projections using blast radius
20 and ambient population data, compiled by Assistant
21 Professor Alex Wellerstein of the Stevens Institute of
22 Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, a single nuclear
23 detonation in Chicago, Illinois, would cause upwards of
24 2,767,440 fatalities, 2,089,050 injuries, and affect
25 7,687,045 people within range of the detonation in the
26 first 24 hours, including many Iowans; and

27 WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa deserve to live a life
28 free from the threat of the reckless use of nuclear

1 weapons; and

2 WHEREAS, development, maintenance, and storage of
3 nuclear weapons drain precious taxpayer resources
4 while failing to make Iowa and the nation safer
5 from 21st century national security concerns such as
6 cyberattacks, terrorism, and climate change; and

7 WHEREAS, religious and military leaders, nuclear
8 experts, and over 300 former heads of state from around
9 the world have called for urgent action to eliminate
10 all nuclear weapons globally; and

11 WHEREAS, every President of the United States since
12 President Ronald Reagan has worked to reduce global
13 nuclear stockpiles in an effort to ultimately eliminate
14 these weapons of mass destruction; and

15 WHEREAS, according to a Congressional Budget
16 Office report, the United States is expected to spend
17 \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to upgrade its
18 nuclear arsenal, money that could be better spent to
19 improve education, health care, job creation, and
20 infrastructure; and

21 WHEREAS, a President of the United States has the
22 sole and unilateral power to launch a nuclear war
23 without any consultation with congressional leaders
24 and without any system of checks and balances to the
25 exercise of this power; NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
27 That the Iowa House of Representatives urges Iowa's
28 congressional delegation to take all necessary steps
29 to establish a system of checks and balances on the
30 preemptive use of nuclear weapons to ensure that a

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1 President of the United States will not have sole and
2 unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons, except
3 in circumstances of retaliation for an attack on the
4 United States.