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From: Jonathan Daly-LaBelle <newemri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:01 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Cc: susandonovanbristol@gmail.com
Subject: Please pass H7329 - TPNW resolution - out of Committee for floor vote

Chairperson Shanley and Members of the State Government and Elections Committee:

As I submit this testimony to you, the case to support this legislative resolution - H7329 - continues to be made by current events. As you consider whether to support this resolution calling for government action to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons, we are living under the heightened anxiety that such a strike could occur, and then spiraling consequences from there.

In just the last 20 to 25 years, and particularly these current years, we have seen too many recent and ongoing wars. Clearly nuclear weapons are not a deterrent that keeps wars from happening. As we have seen, the reckless and bullying threats by Russia's Putin, we see the increased likelihood of experiencing the deadly and disastrous consequences of nuclear strikes.

Members of Israel's government have touted the possibility of nuclear use in recent months, and only a few years ago, we had an unstable and bullying president of our own threatening the possibility of nuclear strikes.

In actuality, it seems most if not all nuclear powers have mused or considered use of nuclear weapons against their adversaries.

I am thankful for the great reduction we have seen in nuclear arsenals around the world as we look back upon the last three to four decades. At one time, global nuclear stockpiles exceeded 60,000. The current number of these weapons is under 13,000.

These are successes worth noting, and ones to build upon. World governments, including and especially our own, should be working to re-engage on lapsed treaties, and in fact join the U.N.'s current initiative and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Rhode Island should do its part to move this next global success forward. Our state government should communicate its positive values and priorities to our congressional delegation, especially long-standing senators, Reed and Whitehouse.

We have such great issues of the day to collaboratively work to resolve, including, but not limited to, climate change, pandemics, poverty and global health and well-being. The initiatives to eliminate the specter of nuclear holocaust and to move away from wars generally, are critically needed to help get us to that next better societal framework. This is crucial for this generation and for future ones to be able to continue on with lives here in manners that resemble our own.

I am a peace and anti-militarism activist and organizer working under the banner of No Endless War or Excessive Militarism. I am a member of the collaboration of organizers that forms Just Peace RI, which admires Rep Donovan for bringing forward this legislative effort. We are appreciative of the co-sponsors and other legislators who hold issues of peace and anti-militarism with them.

Jonathan Daly-LaBelle
No Endless War or Excessive Militarism