

RHODE ISLAND



Poor People's Campaign, Rhode Island
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February 5, 2024

To: House Committee on State Government & Elections

Re: **In support of House Resolution House (No. 7329) on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

Honorable members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections:

This letter in support of [House Resolution No. 7329](#) is on behalf of the Poor People's Campaign in Rhode Island, a network of individuals, congregations and community organizations committed to lifting up and deepening the leadership of those most affected by systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation. We seek to build unity across lines of division.

Rhode Island siphons off state taxpayer dollars for the war economy and militarism¹

- Taxpayer dollars going to nuclear weapons could provide health insurance for more than 34,000 children;
- State taxpayer dollars for deportations and border control could instead subsidize more than 11,000 public housing units; and
- Taxpayer dollars going to the biggest weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin, could hire close to 1,300 elementary school teachers.

With respect to nuclear weapons in particular, Jonathan Schell—in *The Fate of the Earth*—summed up these immoral, reckless, and self-destructive priorities:

The society that has accepted the threat of its utter destruction soon finds it hard to react to lesser evils, for a society cannot be at the same time asleep and awake, insane and sane, against life and for life.

Yours sincerely,
Rhode Island Poor Peoples' Campaign Rhode Island



¹<http://tinyurl.com/rippc-facts-2023>;