



October 4th, 2023

**Testimony in support of: S.1487 (Back from the Brink resolution) and S.1488 (Nuclear and Climate Commission Bill)**

Dear Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security:

I am testifying on behalf of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, a group of nationally-recognized experts in public health, cancer epidemiology, occupational medicine, emergency medicine, disaster preparedness, environmental health, and the medical consequences of nuclear war. Greater Boston PSR, founded over 60 years ago, shared in the Nobel Peace Prize for our advocacy regarding the significant human health risks associated with the testing, stockpiling and deployment of nuclear weapons.

I am testifying today in support of the following two bills related to nuclear disarmament:

1. S.1487, which would put the Legislature on record as supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was ratified internationally on January 22, 2021; and the Back from the Brink resolution, which embraces five nuclear safeguards that would protect our country from the many risks that our current nuclear policies permit, like the president holding sole authority to launch a nuclear war.
2. I am also testifying in support of S.1487, the Nuclear and Climate Commission Bill, which would establish a commission to investigate and make recommendations on the impact to the Commonwealth if funds were transitioned from developing nuclear weapons to confronting the threat of climate change.

The [Massachusetts Medical Society and GBPSR](#) held a joint webinar last week to discuss the overlapping health threats of climate change and nuclear war. One expert testified that escalating climate risks to nuclear weapons have included flooding of missile silos and wildfires that came perilously close to vulnerable nuclear infrastructure. This threat, he said, is so great – to all nations– that it should serve as a unifying rationale for universal nuclear disarmament.

Moreover, we learned from climate experts that even a limited nuclear war would have catastrophic effects on the world's food supply and would lead to dire population losses due to nuclear famine.

But the threat of nuclear weapons is not just a future threat. Today, people and communities across the United States and the world suffer ongoing negative health consequences from decades of nuclear weapons testing, uranium mining, and current weapons production.

We therefore urge your support of the TPNW which bans the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, deployment, threat and use of nuclear weapons; of the Back From the Brink Resolution; and of the Nuclear and Climate Commission which will investigate the best means to transition our spending to investment in saving the many lives at risk from the more urgent threat of the current climate crisis.

In sum, nuclear weapons pose an overwhelming threat to public health. **We urge you to** report S.1487 and S.1488 out favorably from committee **to protect the health** of all who live and work in the Commonwealth and on our planet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Lundberg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brita E. Lundberg, M.D.  
Chair of the Board, Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility