

## Senate Resolution 243

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Rahman of the 5th, Williams of the 39th, Harrell of the 40th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to impose limits on the President's First Use nuclear strike  
2 capabilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the use of even a small number of nuclear weapons could have catastrophic  
4 human, environmental, health, and economic consequences globally; and

5 WHEREAS, some 14,000 nuclear weapons still exist in the world and pose an intolerable  
6 risk to humanity; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States has over 6,000 nuclear weapons, which combined are more  
8 than 100 times more powerful than all the weapons used during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States is currently spending over \$1 trillion over 30 years to rebuild  
10 its entire nuclear weapons arsenal – a gross misuse of funds that could be devoted instead to  
11 improving security, health, and education; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States maintains nearly 1,000 nuclear weapons on high alert so they  
13 are ready for launch within minutes of a presidential decision to do so, increasing the risk of  
14 nuclear use and making them vulnerable to accidents, unauthorized use, cyberattacks, and  
15 miscalculations; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States currently reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response  
17 to non-nuclear attacks by Russia, China, or North Korea, which could respond by using their  
18 own nuclear weapons, resulting in a nuclear war that could have devastating consequences;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the sole purpose of our nuclear weapons should be to deter a nuclear attack on  
21 the United States, its forces, and its allies, so that there is no reason for the United States to  
22 ever use nuclear weapons first; and

23 WHEREAS, the President has sole authority to order a nuclear attack without any  
24 consultation or input, which increases the chance of nuclear use; and

25 WHEREAS, a policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons would severely constrain  
26 the ability of the President to order a nuclear attack, allowing attacks only in response to a  
27 nuclear attack; and

28 WHEREAS, Americans and all people on the planet should have the right to live a life free  
29 from the threat of nuclear weapons use; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States should take urgent steps to change its policies as well as  
31 actively pursue verifiable agreements with other nuclear armed nations to reduce the number  
32 of nuclear weapons and eliminate them from the planet; and

33 WHEREAS, leading Georgians, such as former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, former South  
34 Korean Ambassador James Laney, and philanthropist and entrepreneur Ted Turner, have  
35 made critical contributions to decreasing global nuclear threats; and

36 WHEREAS, the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex, located 25 miles southeast  
37 of Augusta, adjacent to the Savannah River, is increasing National Nuclear Security  
38 Administration nuclear weapons activities, including the planned production of 50 plutonium  
39 pits annually; and

40 WHEREAS, Georgia communities downstream and downwind from the Savannah River Site  
41 are potentially harmed by radioactive effluent in the air, surface water, ground water, fish,  
42 rain, green leafy vegetables, and other environmental and nutrient pathways.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
44 urge the President to make it the policy of the United States that the nation will not start a  
45 nuclear war and will therefore not use nuclear weapons first; urge the United States Congress  
46 to pass legislation supporting this policy; and urge Congress not to fund the development and  
47 production of additional nuclear weapons that can produce a relatively small nuclear  
48 explosion, making them suitable for rogue nuclear war-fighting, potentially weakening  
49 military codes that ban weaponizing drones with a nuclear warhead, and potentially lowering  
50 the threshold to use nuclear weapons first.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
52 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President and  
53 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, to  
54 the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Georgia  
55 in the United States Congress.