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| Image1 | The Commonwealth of MassachusettsJOINT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRSSTATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133 |

**Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs**

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| Rep. Linda Dean Campbell | Sen. Walter F. Timilty |
| House Chair | Senate Chair |

 **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**Date of Hearing:** Tuesday, September 24, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Location:** Gardner Auditorium

Constitutional and Federal Matters

| **Bill No.** | **Sponsor** | **Title** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| H3194 | Ayers, Bruce J. (HOU) | Resolutions urging the Congress of the United States to update the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 and remove excessive training requirements mandated for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine |
| H3208 | Gentile, Carmine Lawrence (HOU) | Resolutions for a United States constitutional amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention |
| H3211 | Higgins, Natalie M. (HOU) | Resolutions to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States |
| H3213 | Hill, Bradford (HOU) | Resolutions calling on Article V of the United States Constitution for the convening of a convention of the states |
| H3220 | Livingstone, Jay D. (HOU) | An Act to establish a commission to report on the people's budget |
| H3239 | Sabadosa, Lindsay N. (HOU) | Resolve creating a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons |
| H3240 | Sabadosa, Lindsay N. (HOU) | Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons |
| H3585 | Elugardo, Nika C. (HOU) | establishing a commission on shifting funds from new nuclear weapons to transportation  |
| S2152 | Brownsberger, William N. (SEN) | An Act relative to eligibility for unemployment benefits for furloughed federal employees |
| S2155 | Comerford, Joanne M. (SEN) | Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons |
| S2156 | Comerford, Joanne M. (SEN) | Resolutions in support of a congressional investigation regarding impeachment of President Donald J. Trump  |
| S2157 | Comerford, Joanne M. (SEN) | Resolve creating a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons |
| S2162 | DiZoglio, Diana (SEN) | An Act providing for payment by the Commonwealth of wages for members of the United States Coast Guard during the shut-down, so-called, of the United States Government |
| S2163 | Eldridge, James B. (SEN) | Resolutions for a United States Constitutional Amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention |
| S2165 | Jehlen, Patricia D. (SEN) | Resolutions to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States |
| S2169 | Lewis, Jason M. (SEN) | Resolve for memorializing the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for general support of NATO, and public education regarding this subject matter |
| S2170 | Lewis, Jason M. (SEN) | Resolve memorializing the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal |

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2380 or (617) 722-1643.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1045 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3194**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Bruce J. Ayers***

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions urging the Congress of the United States to update the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 and remove excessive training requirements mandated for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Bruce J. Ayers* | *1st Norfolk* |
| *Jon Santiago* | *9th Suffolk* |
| *Steven Ultrino* | *33rd Middlesex* |
| *John H. Rogers* | *12th Norfolk* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1045 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3194**

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| By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, House, No. 3194) of Bruce J. Ayers and others for the adoption of resolutions by the General Court memorializing the Congress of the United States to update the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 and remove excessive training requirements mandated for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolutions urging the Congress of the United States to update the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 and remove excessive training requirements mandated for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine.

 Whereas, since the 1990’s the United States of America has experienced a growing issue of the overprescribing of opioid pain relievers; and

 Whereas, this overprescribing of opioids has led to dependence and addiction to drugs such as heroin and fentanyl, which has resulted in a major public health crisis; and

 Whereas, in 2017, the United States Department of Health & Human Services declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency; and

 Whereas, according to 2016 and 2017 data compiled by the Department of Health & Human Services, more than 2.1 million people suffered from an opioid use disorder; and

 Whereas, in 2016 and 2017, an estimated 42,249 people died from overdosing on opioids; and

 Whereas, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more than 130 people per day in the United States die after overdosing on opioids; and

 Whereas, national experts say these numbers will only continue to grow; and

 Whereas, in order to combat this growing epidemic, new methods of treatment must be explored; and

 Whereas, Medically-Assisted Treatment has proven successful in reducing dependence on opioids and treating addiction; and

 Whereas, buprenorphine is a medication used to treat opiate addiction; and

 Whereas, buprenorphine in combination with naxolone (Narcan) is Suboxone, a method of Medically-Assisted Treatment in the form of a pill taken orally every 24 hours with the potential to reduce symptoms of opiate addiction and withdrawal; and

 Whereas, buprenorphine is a Schedule III drug, meaning it carries “moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence”; and

 Whereas, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 stipulates that in order to prescribe buprenorphine, a physician must complete an 8-hour training and take an exam, as well as obtain a specific “X license” through the DEA; and

 Whereas, doctors may prescribe all other Schedule III drugs, as well as some Schedule II drugs (with a “high potential for abuse, which may lead to psychological or physical dependence”) utilizing their DEA license and without going through any special training or obtaining any separate licenses; and

 Whereas, the requirements to prescribe buprenorphine are unreasonably stringent with no precedent set in the prescribing of other Schedule III drugs; and

 Whereas, these unreasonable requirements are a deterrent for physicians to prescribe this potentially life-saving drug; and

 Whereas, it is incumbent upon Congress to take every measure to treat drug addiction; be it therefore

 Resolved, that The General Court urges the United States Congress to update the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 to remove excessive training requirements mandated to prescribe buprenorphine; and be it further

 Resolved, that copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House to the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2012 FILED ON: 1/17/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3208**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Carmine Lawrence Gentile and David T. Vieira***

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions for a United States constitutional amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention.

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PETITION OF:

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| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Carmine Lawrence Gentile* | *13th Middlesex* |
| *David T. Vieira* | *3rd Barnstable* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |
| *James Arciero* | *2nd Middlesex* |
| *Bruce J. Ayers* | *1st Norfolk* |
| *Jennifer E. Benson* | *37th Middlesex* |
| *Natalie M. Blais* | *1st Franklin* |
| *Antonio F. D. Cabral* | *13th Bristol* |
| *Linda Dean Campbell* | *15th Essex* |
| *Peter Capano* | *11th Essex* |
| *Tackey Chan* | *2nd Norfolk* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* |
| *Edward F. Coppinger* | *10th Suffolk* |
| *Daniel R. Cullinane* | *12th Suffolk* |
| *Mark J. Cusack* | *5th Norfolk* |
| *Julian Cyr* | *Cape and Islands* |
| *Marjorie C. Decker* | *25th Middlesex* |
| *Diana DiZoglio* | *First Essex* |
| *Mindy Domb* | *3rd Hampshire* |
| *Daniel M. Donahue* | *16th Worcester* |
| *William J. Driscoll, Jr.* | *7th Norfolk* |
| *Michelle M. DuBois* | *10th Plymouth* |
| *Carolyn C. Dykema* | *8th Middlesex* |
| *Nika C. Elugardo* | *15th Suffolk* |
| *Paul R. Feeney* | *Bristol and Norfolk* |
| *Dylan A. Fernandes* | *Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket* |
| *Carole A. Fiola* | *6th Bristol* |
| *Sean Garballey* | *23rd Middlesex* |
| *Thomas A. Golden, Jr.* | *16th Middlesex* |
| *Carlos González* | *10th Hampden* |
| *Tami L. Gouveia* | *14th Middlesex* |
| *James K. Hawkins* | *2nd Bristol* |
| *Stephan Hay* | *3rd Worcester* |
| *Jonathan Hecht* | *29th Middlesex* |
| *Christopher Hendricks* | *11th Bristol* |
| *Natalie M. Higgins* | *4th Worcester* |
| *Kate Hogan* | *3rd Middlesex* |
| *Patricia D. Jehlen* | *Second Middlesex* |
| *Louis L. Kafka* | *8th Norfolk* |
| *Patrick Joseph Kearney* | *4th Plymouth* |
| *Mary S. Keefe* | *15th Worcester* |
| *James M. Kelcourse* | *1st Essex* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* |
| *Kathleen R. LaNatra* | *12th Plymouth* |
| *John J. Lawn, Jr.* | *10th Middlesex* |
| *David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf* | *17th Worcester* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* |
| *Jason M. Lewis* | *Fifth Middlesex* |
| *Adrian C. Madaro* | *1st Suffolk* |
| *Elizabeth A. Malia* | *11th Suffolk* |
| *Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.* | *28th Middlesex* |
| *Paul McMurtry* | *11th Norfolk* |
| *Christina A. Minicucci* | *14th Essex* |
| *Liz Miranda* | *5th Suffolk* |
| *James M. Murphy* | *4th Norfolk* |
| *Brian W. Murray* | *10th Worcester* |
| *Harold P. Naughton, Jr.* | *12th Worcester* |
| *Tram T. Nguyen* | *18th Essex* |
| *Patrick M. O'Connor* | *Plymouth and Norfolk* |
| *James J. O'Day* | *14th Worcester* |
| *Sarah K. Peake* | *4th Barnstable* |
| *Smitty Pignatelli* | *4th Berkshire* |
| *Denise Provost* | *27th Middlesex* |
| *Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.* | *12th Hampden* |
| *David Allen Robertson* | *19th Middlesex* |
| *Maria Duaime Robinson* | *6th Middlesex* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* |
| *John H. Rogers* | *12th Norfolk* |
| *Jeffrey N. Roy* | *10th Norfolk* |
| *Lindsay N. Sabadosa* | *1st Hampshire* |
| *Jon Santiago* | *9th Suffolk* |
| *Angelo M. Scaccia* | *14th Suffolk* |
| *Thomas M. Stanley* | *9th Middlesex* |
| *Walter F. Timilty* | *Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth* |
| *José F. Tosado* | *9th Hampden* |
| *Paul F. Tucker* | *7th Essex* |
| *Steven Ultrino* | *33rd Middlesex* |
| *Aaron Vega* | *5th Hampden* |
| *Tommy Vitolo* | *15th Norfolk* |
| *Thomas P. Walsh* | *12th Essex* |
| *Timothy R. Whelan* | *1st Barnstable* |
| *Bud L. Williams* | *11th Hampden* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2012 FILED ON: 1/17/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3208**

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| By Messrs. Gentile of Sudbury and Vieira of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, House, No. 3208) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile, David T. Vieira and others for the adoption of resolutions memorializing the Congress of the United States to call for a convention to propose amendments in order to address concerns about the integrity of our elections and the ability of the people to participate in effective self-government. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolutions for a United States constitutional amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention.

 WHEREAS, the 1st President of the United States George Washington stated, “The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government."; and

 WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone." (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

 WHEREAS, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted the will of the people by undermining our ability to choose our political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of our state; and

 WHEREAS, corporations are artificial entities that governments create and, as such, do not possess the same unalienable rights of natural persons protected by the Constitution; and

 WHEREAS, corporations have used a claim to the rights enumerated in the US Constitution, including under the 1st, 4th, 5th and 14th Amendments, to challenge and overturn democratically enacted laws protecting the public interest; and

 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; and

 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sees the need for a convention to propose amendments in order to address concerns about the integrity of our elections and about the ability of the people to participate in effective self-government, specifically those concerns arising from the United States Supreme Court’s rulings limiting the ability of the legislature to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections and granting constitutional rights to corporations; and desires that said convention should be so limited; and

 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts desires that the delegates to said convention shall be comprised equally from individuals currently elected to state and local office, or be selected by election in each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the Convention, and intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and

 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts intends that this application shall constitute a continuing application, considered together with applications on this subject such as those passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Massachusetts notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds of the Several States have applied for a Convention and said Convention is convened by Congress;

 Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that it calls on Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution that would affirm that (a) the rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons, i.e. human individuals, only and (b) Congress and the states shall place limits on political contributions and expenditures to ensure that all citizens have access to the political process, and the spending of money to influence elections is not protected free speech under the First Amendment; and

 Be it further Resolved, that if Congress does not propose this constitutional amendment within 6 months of the passage of this bill, then this bill constitutes a petition by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to the Congress to call a limited Convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing Amendments, as prescribed previously herein, to the Constitution of the United States of America addressing, inter alia, concerns raised by Citizens United v. FEC, McCutcheon v. FEC and related decisions, as soon as two-thirds of the several States have applied for a Convention; and

 Be it further Resolved, that this petition shall not be considered by the U.S. Congress until 33 other states submit petitions for the same purpose as proposed by Massachusetts in this resolution and unless the Congress determines that the scope of amendments to the Constitution of the United States considered by the convention shall be limited to the same purpose requested by Massachusetts; and

 Be it further Resolved, that the Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States and addressed to him at the legislative office which he maintains in Suite No. S-212 of the United States Capitol Building, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, to each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States, to the Governor of each State, and to the presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several States, requesting the cooperation of the several States in issuing an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2967 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3211**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Natalie M. Higgins***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Natalie M. Higgins* | *4th Worcester* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* |
| *Mary S. Keefe* | *15th Worcester* |
| *Dylan A. Fernandes* | *Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* |
| *Denise Provost* | *27th Middlesex* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* |
| *Tommy Vitolo* | *15th Norfolk* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |
| *Tami L. Gouveia* | *14th Middlesex* |
| *Mindy Domb* | *3rd Hampshire* |
| *Jonathan Hecht* | *29th Middlesex* |
| *Sean Garballey* | *23rd Middlesex* |
| *Nika C. Elugardo* | *15th Suffolk* |
| *Daniel R. Cullinane* | *12th Suffolk* |
| *Marjorie C. Decker* | *25th Middlesex* |
| *Tackey Chan* | *2nd Norfolk* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* |
| *James K. Hawkins* | *2nd Bristol* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2967 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3211**

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| By Ms. Higgins of Leominster, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, House, No. 3211) of Natalie M. Higgins and others for the adoption of resolutions relative to memorializing the President of the United States to make it the policy of the United States that it will not start a nuclear war and not use nuclear weapons first. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolutions to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States.

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

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

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

 WHEREAS the United States is currently planning to spend nearly $2 trillion over the next 30 years rebuilding its entire nuclear weapons arsenal—a gross misuse of funds that could be devoted instead to improving security, health, and education; and

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

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

 WHEREAS the U.S. president has sole authority to order a nuclear attack without any consultation or input, which increases the chance of nuclear use; and

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

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

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

 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as an important first step the Legislature calls on the president to make it the policy of the United States that it will not start a nuclear war and will therefore not use nuclear weapons first, and calls on the Congress to pass legislation supporting this policy; and

 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States.

 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature calls upon each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States to attach such language to other legislation wherever appropriate.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 905 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3213**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Bradford Hill***

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions calling on Article V of the United States Constitution for the convening of a convention of the states.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Bradford Hill* | *4th Essex* |
| *Bradley H. Jones, Jr.* | *20th Middlesex* |
| *Randy Hunt* | *5th Barnstable* |
| *James M. Kelcourse* | *1st Essex* |
| *Joseph D. McKenna* | *18th Worcester* |
| *Elizabeth A. Poirier* | *14th Bristol* |
| *Michael J. Soter* | *8th Worcester* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 905 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3213**

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| By Mr. Hill of Ipswich, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, House, No. 3213) of Bradford Hill and others for the adoption of resolutions memorializing the Congress of the United States to convene a Constitutional Convention. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *1929* OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolutions calling on Article V of the United States Constitution for the convening of a convention of the states.

 WHEREAS, Executive Orders by the President of the United States have become a vehicle through which the President may overstep the limits of his constitutional authority; and

 WHEREAS, the concentration of power at the federal level has had the effect of making federal officials less responsive to the will of the people and more readily influenced by lobbyists, wealthy corporations, and special interests in Washington, D.C.; and

 WHEREAS, much of federal law is now enacted by federal bureaucrats who were never chosen by the people and have no accountability to the people whatsoever; and

 WHEREAS, policy decisions made at the state level tend to be more responsive to the needs and desires of the people; and

 WHEREAS, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

 WHEREAS, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

 WHEREAS, the States have the ability to restore the responsiveness of government to the people and to restrain abuses of federal power by proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a limited Convention of States under Article V; therefore be it

 RESOLVED, that the legislature of the State of Massachusetts hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; and be it further

 RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives from this State; also to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several States, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

 RESOLVED, that this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 294 FILED ON: 1/9/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3220**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Jay D. Livingstone***

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a commission to report on the people's budget.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Jay D. Livingstone* | *8th Suffolk* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* |
| *Marjorie C. Decker* | *25th Middlesex* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |
| *Nika C. Elugardo* | *15th Suffolk* |
| *Sean Garballey* | *23rd Middlesex* |
| *Jonathan Hecht* | *29th Middlesex* |
| *Natalie M. Higgins* | *4th Worcester* |
| *Russell E. Holmes* | *6th Suffolk* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 294 FILED ON: 1/9/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3220**

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| By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3220) of Jay D. Livingstone and others for adoption of resolutions memorializing the Massachusetts congressional delegation and the President of the United States to support the people's budget, and for an investigation by a commission (including members of the General Court) on the impact that passage of the people’s budget. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act to establish a commission to report on the people's budget.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

 People’s Budget Resolution

 SECTION 1

 Whereas 28% of the Massachusetts budget is derived from Federal Government funds and;

 Whereas the largest expenditure in the Massachusetts budget is healthcare, and 379,000 people are still uninsured, the People’s Budget contributes funding for states to transition to single payer health care;

 Whereas 43% of people in Massachusetts are poor or low-income, and 1 million workers are making under $15 an hour, the People’s Budget supports minimum wage increases and collective bargaining rights, increases support for small businesses, prioritizes “Made in America” policies across government agencies;

 Whereas Massachusetts is underfunding education by an estimate of $1-2 billion dollars, the People’s Budget invests in early learning, K-12 education, debt-free public college and the refinancing of student loans and;

 Whereas almost 3,000 black adults in Massachusetts cannot vote due to felony voting restrictions, the People’s Budget increases funding for voter protection and legal assistance programs and funds public financing of campaigns and;

 Whereas in Massachusetts 8,457 people were deported between 2003 and 2017, the People’s Budget provides continued funding for sanctuary cities, adds funding for refugee resettlement programs, ends family detention and prohibits funding for construction of a border wall and;

 Whereas 21% of veterans in Massachusetts are living on less than $35,000 a year and one in five are living in poverty, the People’s Budget eliminates veteran’s homelessness, expands access to mental health care and expands job training for veterans and;

 Whereas the richest 1% of Massachusetts residents are expected to receive 31% of the benefits of the new federal tax law and the expected tax cut in 2027 will be $12,230 while the poorest 20% will be paying $50 more, the People’s Budget instead increases the tax rate on the richest Americans, closes corporate tax loopholes, ends offshore tax havens and;

 Whereas the UN Panel on Climate Change has estimated we have twelve years before the level of CO2 in the atmosphere will make the United States uninhabitable and;

 Whereas in Massachusetts 10,452 tons of NOx are emitted yearly, a leading cause of respiratory problems, the People’s Budget invests 2 trillion in transitioning to clean renewable energy, crumbling roads, bridges, and a Green New Deal to build a fully modernized electric grid and create high-quality jobs and;

 Whereas Massachusetts residents have contributed $181 billion to wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond since 2001, wars we have not “won,” or made us safer but instead have seriously damaged our international reputation and have diverted funds from sectors that will make us more resilient and safer such as healthcare, education and the transition to renewable energy, increased protection of vital natural resources in Massachusetts and;

 Whereas 12.2 billion dollars were spent in Massachusetts on defense in 2015, the tenth highest in the United States , with 11.2 billion in defense contracts, the fifth highest in the country, the People’s Budget will reduce the military budget below pre-Trump administration levels and end emergency funding for Overseas Contingency Operations and;

 Whereas we live in the richest country in the history of the world and have abundant resources to ensure dignity and health of people and the country and we must dramatically change our priorities and reallocate funding to preserve the future of the people of this Commonwealth and the country as a whole;

 Therefore be it resolved that the Members of the legislature of Massachusetts call upon the entire congressional delegation and the President to support the People’s Budget.

 SECTION 2

 (a) There shall be a People’s Budget commission established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws, referred to in this section as the commission. The commission shall evaluate and report on the impact that passage of the People’s Budget would have on Massachusetts, including currently underfunded sectors such as environment, education, health care, transportation, and the arts.

 (b) The commission shall consist of 15 members: 2 of whom shall be members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the hour of representatives; 1 of whom shall be a member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 2 of whom shall be members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate; 1 of whom shall be a member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the governor of which one shall be a member of the executive office of Administration and Finance; 1 of whom shall be a member of Massachusetts Peace Action; 1 of whom shall be a member of the Mass Taxpayers Association; 1 of whom shall be a member of Mass Budget and Policy Center; 1 of whom shall be a board member of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts; 1 of whom shall be a member of the SEIU Executive Council; 1 of whom shall be a board member of the Alliance of Business Leadership; 1 appointed by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth

 (c) The commission shall submit its final report to the governor, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee Revenue not later than six months after enactment which shall include: (i) an evaluation of the potential impacts of the resolution

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3477 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3239**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Lindsay N. Sabadosa***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve creating a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Lindsay N. Sabadosa* | *1st Hampshire* |
| *Carlos González* | *10th Hampden* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* |
| *Natalie M. Blais* | *1st Franklin* |
| *Mindy Domb* | *3rd Hampshire* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |
| *Nika C. Elugardo* | *15th Suffolk* |
| *Natalie M. Higgins* | *4th Worcester* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* |
| *Paul W. Mark* | *2nd Berkshire* |
| *Brian W. Murray* | *10th Worcester* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* |
| *Tommy Vitolo* | *15th Norfolk* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3477 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3239**

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| By Ms. Sabadosa of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3239) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and others for the establishment of a citizens commission concerning alignment with the United Nations treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolve creating a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

 Resolved, There shall be a non-partisan Citizens Commission to advance the intention of the commonwealth of Massachusetts to be in alignment with the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, hereinafter referred to as the treaty. The commission shall be comprised of 11 United States citizens who are residents of Massachusetts, one member who shall be appointed by the governor, one member who shall be appointed by the secretary of the commonwealth, one member who shall be appointed by the attorney general, one member who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house, one member who shall be appointed by the senate president, and six members who shall additionally be appointed by the governor, from a group of ten individuals nominated by the not for profit organization Massachusetts Peace Action. No person shall be appointed to the commission who has not publicly applied for such appointment, which applications the governor shall cause to be posted on a page established for the public knowledge and oversight of the appointment and operation of the commission on the official website of the commonwealth. No person shall be appointed to the commission that is a current or former employee of any company or military installation involved in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons.

 An application by any citizen who seeks to serve on this commission shall state the intent of the applicant to comply with and advance the policy established by this act; the applicant’s qualifications and interest in serving on the commission; the political party affiliation, if any, of the applicant over the previous 5 years; the city or town in which the applicant resides; and the employment of the applicant, if employed. All applications for service on the commission shall be submitted within 60 days of the posting of the appointment opportunity on the official website of the commonwealth, which posting the governor shall cause to be made within 30 days of effective date of this Act.

 All appointments shall be made no sooner than 90 days and no later than 120 days following the effective date of this act. In making appointments to the commission, the governor, secretary of the commonwealth, attorney general, president of the senate and speaker of the house shall consider the non-partisan nature of the commission, and shall seek to ensure that the commission reflects a range of geographical, political and demographic backgrounds. Appointees to the commission shall serve without compensation.

 Members of the commission shall elect a chair or co-chairs, in the manner as the members of the commission may decide by majority vote. The commission shall meet on a regular basis to research, gather evidence, testimony and advice in the manner that the members of the commission determine is most conducive to achieving the objectives of this act, provided, however, that the commission proceedings and activities shall be subject to the Open Meeting Law and the Public Records Law, and that all residents of Massachusetts have a reasonable opportunity to offer their views and ideas related to the policies herein to the commission.

 The commission shall work to inform citizens and legislators about the consequences and implications of bringing the commonwealth into alignment with the 2017 Nuclear Ban Treaty, including but not limited to a full appraisal of how jobs, technologies and industries currently devoted to nuclear weapons within the commonwealth could be converted to address climate change and other pressing social needs.

 The commission shall file a report with the clerks of the house and senate, and with the governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, and all Massachusetts members of the Massachusetts federal congressional delegation no later than July 31, 2021.

 The final report of the commission shall include the following: an inventory of all companies, facilities and institutions in the state involved in the nuclear weapons industry, an inventory of all state investments, including state pension funds, held in companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry, an inventory of all state contracts with companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry, including the total value of each contract, documentation of the economic impact that the nuclear weapons industry has on the state, including but not limited to the total workforce employed by the industry in the state, the total revenue generated in the state from the industry, and all facilities and infrastructure utilized and/or managed by the nuclear weapons industry within the state, an inventory of the total number of jobs and contracts directly related to prohibited activities as designated under the Nuclear Ban Treaty, an inventory of the transferable skills, technology, and infrastructure employed by the nuclear weapons industry and recommendations for how they may be converted to industry and technology that address climate change or other relevant and pressing social needs, recommendations for an appropriate nuclear industry conversion timeline, including an assessment of the estimated cost of conversion to the state and federal government, recommendations for establishing procedures that screen all potential state contracts for involvement in the nuclear weapons industry, an analysis of the impact that state conversion from the nuclear weapons industry to industries which address climate change and other relevant social needs will have on that state economy and the US nuclear weapons industry, and recommendations for any and all additional steps the state can take to influence the federal government to sign and ratify the Nuclear Ban Treaty. The commission shall make any necessary recommendations to the general court on legislation designed to bring the commonwealth into alignment with the treaty.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3527 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3240**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Lindsay N. Sabadosa***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

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| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Lindsay N. Sabadosa* | *1st Hampshire* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* |
| *Mindy Domb* | *3rd Hampshire* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |
| *Nika C. Elugardo* | *15th Suffolk* |
| *Carlos González* | *10th Hampden* |
| *Natalie M. Higgins* | *4th Worcester* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* |
| *Tommy Vitolo* | *15th Norfolk* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3527 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3240**

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| By Ms. Sabadosa of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, House, No. 3240) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and others relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

 WHEREAS, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 14,500 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

 WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

 WHEREAS, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, small by modern standards, if used to attack urban industrial targets would put at least five million tons of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

 WHEREAS, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a species; and

 WHEREAS, despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

 WHEREAS, nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their use; and

 WHEREAS, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, speaking about the Cuban Missile Crisis, “It was luck that prevented nuclear war,” yet our nuclear policy cannot be the hope that luck will continue; and

 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, causing the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

 WHEREAS, the planned expenditure of more than $1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and

 WHEREAS, there is an alternative to this march toward nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now,

 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Court calls on our federal leaders to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy; and be it further

 RESOLVED, that the Legislature calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

 RESOLVED, that the clerk of the senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from the commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, and to the governor of the commonwealth.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3924 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3585**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Nika C. Elugardo***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve establishing a commission on shifting funds from new nuclear weapons to transportation.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Nika C. Elugardo* | *15th Suffolk* |
| *David Paul Linsky* | *5th Middlesex* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* |
| *Michelle M. DuBois* | *10th Plymouth* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |
| *Carlos González* | *10th Hampden* |
| *Jonathan Hecht* | *29th Middlesex* |
| *Natalie M. Higgins* | *4th Worcester* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* |
| *Denise Provost* | *27th Middlesex* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* |
| *Lindsay N. Sabadosa* | *1st Hampshire* |
| *Bud L. Williams* | *11th Hampden* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3924 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 3585**

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| By Ms. Elugardo of Boston, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3585) of Nika C. Elugardo and others for the establishment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate the diversion of funds from the United States government’s nuclear modernization programs to meet the transportation infrastructure costs of the Commonwealth. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolve establishing a commission on shifting funds from new nuclear weapons to transportation.

 Resolved, There shall be a commission on transportation funds evaluation, referred to in this resolve as the commission. The commission shall consist of 15 members: 2 of whom shall be members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house; 2 of whom shall be members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 person appointed by the governor; 1 person appointed by the treasurer of the commonwealth; 1 person appointed by the secretary of administration and finance; 1 person appointed by Massachusetts Peace Action, Inc.; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Association; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Inc.; 1 person appointed by the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Inc.; 1 person appointed by the SEIU Executive Council; and 1 person appointed by Veterans for Peace.

 Members of the commission shall be drawn from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, age, sexual-orientation and socio-economic backgrounds from throughout the commonwealth. Members shall be considered special state employees for purposes of chapter 268A of the General Laws. The commission shall be an independent agency of the commonwealth and shall not be subject to the control of any other department or agency.

 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the balance of the unexpired term. The commission shall elect from among its members a chair. The chair of the commission may designate on an annual basis 1 or more commission members as vice-chairs of the commission. The chair of the commission may create advisory committees as needed after consultation with the commission. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The appointment of the commissioners shall occur within 60 days after the effective date of this resolve. The special commission shall dissolve 60 days after the submission of its report, unless upon a 2/3 vote of the commission, a continuance is deemed necessary to complete the purpose of the commission. The time frame of said continuance shall be specified in the motion to extend time of operation. The commission shall submit its report to the governor and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on revenue, the joint committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on ways and means.

 The commission shall evaluate and report on (i) the cost of the United States government’s programs to renew, modernize and expand its nuclear weapons and missile defense systems (the “nuclear modernization costs”); (ii) the cost of necessary improvements to Massachusetts’ transportation infrastructure, including but not limited to bridges, tunnels, railways, subways, roads, cycleways, walkways, streets, airports and seaports (the “transportation infrastructure costs”); and (iii) the portion of Massachusetts’ transportation infrastructure costs that could be met if the Federal government diverted funds from nuclear modernization costs to meet the transportation infrastructure costs of Massachusetts and the other 49 states.

 The powers of the commission shall include but not be limited to the following: (i) to use voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations that may from time to time be offered and needed; (ii) to select an executive director and to acquire adequate staff to perform its duties, subject to appropriation; (iii) to establish and maintain offices that it considers necessary, subject to appropriation; (iv) to enact by-laws for its own governance; and (v) to hold regular, public meetings and to hold fact-finding hearings and other public forums as it may consider necessary.

 The commission may request from all state agencies such information and assistance as the commission may require. The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests or any federal funds, for any of the purposes of this resolve. These funds shall be deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, be received by the treasurer on behalf of the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 623 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2152**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***William N. Brownsberger***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to eligibility for unemployment benefits for furloughed federal employees.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *William N. Brownsberger* | *Second Suffolk and Middlesex* |  |
| *Sal N. DiDomenico* | *Middlesex and Suffolk* | *1/25/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 623 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2152**

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| By Mr. Brownsberger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2152) of William N. Brownsberger and Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation relative to eligibility for unemployment benefits for furloughed federal employees. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act relative to eligibility for unemployment benefits for furloughed federal employees.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

 SECTION 1. Section 24 of chapter 151A, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by doing the following:-

 1) adding the figure "(1)" in line 45 after the words "is due to";

 2) inserting the words "part 1 of" before the words "this paragraph" in line 50; and

 3) by adding the words "; or (2) being placed on furlough as a federal employee or as an employee of the Commonwealth" after the word "year" in line 51.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1542 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2155**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Joanne M. Comerford***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *Joanne M. Comerford* | *Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester* |  |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* | *1/23/2019* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* | *1/29/2019* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* | *1/30/2019* |
| *Rebecca L. Rausch* | *Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex* | *1/31/2019* |
| *Patrick M. O'Connor* | *Plymouth and Norfolk* | *7/1/2019* |
| *Patrick Joseph Kearney* | *4th Plymouth* | *7/8/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1542 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2155**

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| By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 2155) of Joanne M. Comerford, Jack Patrick Lewis, Mike Connolly, James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to prohibit nuclear weapons. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Resolutions relative to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

 WHEREAS, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 14,500 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

 WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

 WHEREAS, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, small by modern standards, if used to attack urban industrial targets would put at least five million tons of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

 WHEREAS, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a species; and

 WHEREAS, despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

 WHEREAS, nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their use; and

 WHEREAS, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, speaking about the Cuban Missile Crisis, “It was luck that prevented nuclear war,” yet our nuclear policy cannot be the hope that luck will continue; and

 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, causing the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

 WHEREAS, the planned expenditure of more than $1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and

 WHEREAS, there is an alternative to this march toward nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now,

 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Court calls on our federal leaders to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy; and be it further

 RESOLVED, that the Legislature calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

 RESOLVED, that the clerk of the senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from the commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, and to the governor of the commonwealth.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1565 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2156**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Joanne M. Comerford***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions in support of a congressional investigation regarding impeachment of President Donald J. Trump.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |  |
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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *Joanne M. Comerford* | *Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester* |  |
| *Mindy Domb* | *3rd Hampshire* | *1/31/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1565 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2156**

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| By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 2156) of Joanne M. Comerford and Mindy Domb for legislation in support of a congressional investigation regarding impeachment of President Donald J. Trump. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolutions in support of a congressional investigation regarding impeachment of President Donald J. Trump.

 WHEREAS, the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that “no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under [the United States], shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State;” and

 WHEREAS, the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that, besides the fixed salary for his four-year term, the President “shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them;” and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States, owns various business interests and receives various streams of income from all over the world, by means of which he receives emoluments from foreign governments, states of the United States, or the United States itself; and

 WHEREAS, the term “emoluments” includes a broad range of financial benefits, including but not limited to monetary payments, purchase of goods and services even for fair market value, subsidies, tax breaks, extensions of credit, and favorable regulatory treatment; and

 WHEREAS, leading constitutional scholars and government ethics experts warned Donald J. Trump shortly after the November 2016 election that, unless he fully divested his businesses and invested the money in conflict-free assets or a blind trust, he would violate the Constitution from the moment he took office; and

 WHEREAS, on January 11, 2017, nine days before his inauguration, Donald J. Trump announced a plan that would, if carried out, remove him from day-to-day operations of his businesses, but not eliminate any of the ongoing flow of emoluments from foreign governments, state governments, or the United States government; and

 WHEREAS, on January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became President of the United States; and

 WHEREAS, from the moment he took office, President Trump has been in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause and the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution, thereby corruptly advancing his personal wealth, undermining the integrity of the Presidency, and violating the public trust; and

 WHEREAS, section 30121 of chapter 52 of the United States Code prohibits the solicitation, acceptance, or receipt of “a contribution or donation of money or other thing of value . . . in connection with a Federal, State, or local election” from a foreign national; and

 WHEREAS, on June 3, 2016, Donald Trump Jr., Trump’s eldest son, exchanged a series of emails setting up a meeting to receive “incriminating information” about his father’s general election opponent, which was described as coming from the Russian government, as “part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump;” and

 WHEREAS, on June 9, 2016 Donald Trump Jr., Paul Manafort, Trump’s then-campaign manager, and Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior advisor, met with several Russian citizens linked to the government with the intention of acquiring the information offered in the June 3 emails; and

 WHEREAS, on July 8, 2017, the day this meeting was publicly revealed, Donald Trump Jr. released a public statement, which was later shown to be misleading, about the circumstances and purpose of the meeting; and

 WHEREAS, it has been reported that, on July 8, 2017, Donald J. Trump personally dictated his son’s misleading statement about the meeting; and

 WHEREAS, on May 9, 2017, Trump fired the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, James Comey; and

 WHEREAS, on the date of his firing, Director Comey was leading one or more investigations that might have incriminated President Trump and/or his close associates; and

 WHEREAS, regardless of the ultimate outcome of those criminal investigations, President Trump interfered with them by firing Director Comey; and

 WHEREAS, Trump has advocated illegal violence, given aid and comfort to white supremacists and neo-Nazis, and undermined the constitutional protections of equal protection under law; and

 WHEREAS, in August 2017, Donald J. Trump, after neo-Nazis and white supremacists marched on Charlottesville, Virginia, murdering one peaceful protestor and injuring several others in a terror attack, blamed the violence on “both sides” and stated that the neo-Nazi and white supremacist marchers included “very fine people;” and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has abused the pardon power of the President; and

 WHEREAS, on August 26, 2017, Donald J. Trump pardoned Joseph Arpaio, the former Arizona Sheriff who was convicted of criminal contempt of court for willfully and openly defying a judicial order to cease a practice, which the court found to be unconstitutional, of detaining people, based on their presumed Latino ancestry, without reasonable suspicion that they had committed any crime,

 WHEREAS, in our nation’s history no previous president has ever pardoned a public official convicted of criminal contempt of court for willfully disobeying a court order to stop violating individuals’ constitutional rights; and

 WHEREAS, the pardon undermines separation of powers and due process of law by allowing an official to skirt a judicial mandate without consequences; and

 WHEREAS, the pardon sends a dangerous message both to unscrupulous government officials who may be inclined to follow in Arpaio’s path, and also to President Trump’s associates who may be subpoenaed in connection with ongoing federal investigations, that he may be willing to use the pardon power to protect them from negative consequences for defying court orders, further undermining separation of powers and due process of law, and obstructing justice; and

 WHEREAS, in the late summer of 2017, Donald J. Trump made increasingly reckless public threats against North Korea, including that “[b]eing nice to Rocket Man hasn’t worked,” that “[m]ilitary solutions” were “locked and loaded,” that he had instructed the Secretary of State he was “wasting his time” negotiating with North Korean leadership because “we’ll do what has to be done,” that the United States might “have no choice but to totally destroy” North Korea, that North Korea “will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen,” that “only one thing will work,” and that North Korea or its leadership “won’t be around much longer;” and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump reportedly informed a United States senator that he would bomb North Korea if it continued testing missiles; and

 WHEREAS, after Donald J. Trump reportedly told senior advisers that he wanted to increase the country’s nuclear weapons stockpile eightfold, the Secretary of State was so alarmed by the president’s lack of understanding of the risks of nuclear weapons that he reportedly referred to the president as a “moron;” and

 WHEREAS, the existing tension between and lack of accurate understanding of intentions of the leadership of the United States and North Korea means that threats of invasion or bombing could easily lead to a misunderstanding or miscalculation resulting in the use of nuclear weapons by either or both sides; and

 WHEREAS, such a conflagration could quickly spread to South Korea, Japan, China, and/or Russia, the latter two of which also have, and might be drawn into an exchange of nuclear weapons; and

 WHEREAS, available public evidence suggests that Donald J. Trump does not understand, and/or is unwilling or unable to understand, the risks of the use of nuclear weapons, or of how the North Korean leadership could interpret or misinterpret his verbal threats or movement of military forces as military attacks that lead them to respond with conventional or nuclear attacks on the United States or other nations; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump’s reckless threats of nuclear war against foreign nations, undermining and subverting the essential diplomatic functions and authority of federal agencies, including the United States Department of State, and other conduct that heightens the risk of hostilities involving weapons of mass destruction, grossly and wantonly endanger the peace and security of the United States, its people and people of other nations, with reckless disregard for the risk of death and grievous bodily harm; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has issued public statements, including on Twitter, pressuring the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party, and other political adversaries; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has issued public comments on other pending criminal and court-martial proceedings, with the evident purpose to direct and influence the prosecution and outcome of specific proceedings, to the detriment of the independence of law enforcement from command influence and in derogation of the right to a fair trial; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has directed or endeavored to direct law enforcement, including the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to investigate and prosecute political adversaries and others, for improper purposes not justified by any lawful function of his office, thereby eroding the rule of law, undermining the independence of law enforcement from politics, and compromising the constitutional right to due process of law; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump has repeatedly attacked major U.S. news organizations as “fake news” and “the enemy of the American people,” and abused the power of his office in efforts to retaliate against the independent press, thus undermining the freedom of the press at home and abroad; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, through his administration, has cruelly and deliberately imprisoned children who have committed no crime, separately from their parents, in violation of the fundamental human rights of both parents and children in contravention of the Constitution, in some cases resulting in permanent separation of children from their parents due to government action, in violation of due process of law and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishments; and

 WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump stands accused by his own personal attorney of having made and directed payments of “hush money” to prevent two former mistresses from speaking publicly about his extramarital affairs, for the purpose of influencing the 2016 election, and in violation of federal campaign finance law; and

 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the general court of the commonwealth of Massachusetts that it calls upon the United States House of Representatives to support a resolution authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary of said House to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist for the impeachment of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, including but not limited to the following violations:

 (1) violating the Foreign Emoluments Clause and Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution;

 (2) obstructing justice;

 (3) conspiring with others to: (a) commit crimes against the United States involving the solicitation and intended receipt by the Donald J. Trump campaign of things of value from a foreign government and other foreign nationals; and (b) conceal those violations;

 (4) advocating illegal violence, giving aid and comfort to white supremacists and neo-Nazis, and undermining constitutional protections of equal protection under the law;

 (5) abusing the pardon power;

 (6) recklessly threatening nuclear war against foreign nations, undermining and subverting the essential diplomatic functions and authority of federal agencies, including the United States Department of State, and engaging in other conduct that grossly and wantonly endangers the peace and security of the United States, its people and people of other nations, by heightening the risk of hostilities involving weapons of mass destruction, with reckless disregard for the risk of death and grievous bodily harm;

 (7) directing or endeavoring to direct law enforcement, including the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to investigate and prosecute political adversaries and others, for improper purposes not justified by any lawful function of his office, thereby eroding the rule of law, undermining the independence of law enforcement from politics, and compromising the constitutional right to due process of law;

 (8) undermining the freedom of the press;

 (9) cruelly and unconstitutionally imprisoning children and their families; and

 (10) making and directing illegal payments to influence the 2016 election; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the house of representatives and Clerk of the senate transmit copies of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1688 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2157**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Joanne M. Comerford***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve creating a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *Joanne M. Comerford* | *Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester* |  |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* | *1/29/2019* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* | *1/30/2019* |
| *Rebecca L. Rausch* | *Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex* | *1/31/2019* |
| *Mindy Domb* | *3rd Hampshire* | *1/31/2019* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Julian Cyr* | *Cape and Islands* | *2/11/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1688 FILED ON: 1/18/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2157**

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| By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 2157) of Joanne M. Comerford, Mike Connolly, James B. Eldridge, Rebecca L. Rausch and other members of the General Court for legislation to create a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolve creating a citizens commission concerning the commonwealth of Massachusetts being in alignment with the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

 Resolved, There shall be a non-partisan Citizens Commission to advance the intention of the commonwealth of Massachusetts to be in alignment with the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, hereinafter referred to as the treaty. The commission shall be comprised of 11 United States citizens who are residents of Massachusetts, one member who shall be appointed by the governor, one member who shall be appointed by the secretary of the commonwealth, one member who shall be appointed by the attorney general, one member who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house, one member who shall be appointed by the senate president, and six members who shall additionally be appointed by the governor, from a group of ten individuals nominated by the not for profit organization Massachusetts Peace Action. No person shall be appointed to the commission who has not publicly applied for such appointment, which applications the governor shall cause to be posted on a page established for the public knowledge and oversight of the appointment and operation of the commission on the official website of the commonwealth. No person shall be appointed to the commission that is a current or former employee of any company or military installation involved in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons.

 An application by any citizen who seeks to serve on this commission shall state the intent of the applicant to comply with and advance the policy established by this act; the applicant’s qualifications and interest in serving on the commission; the political party affiliation, if any, of the applicant over the previous 5 years; the city or town in which the applicant resides; and the employment of the applicant, if employed. All applications for service on the commission shall be submitted within 60 days of the posting of the appointment opportunity on the official website of the commonwealth, which posting the governor shall cause to be made within 30 days of effective date of this Act.

 All appointments shall be made no sooner than 90 days and no later than 120 days following the effective date of this act. In making appointments to the commission, the governor, secretary of the commonwealth, attorney general, president of the senate and speaker of the house shall consider the non-partisan nature of the commission, and shall seek to ensure that the commission reflects a range of geographical, political and demographic backgrounds. Appointees to the commission shall serve without compensation.

 Members of the commission shall elect a chair or co-chairs, in the manner as the members of the commission may decide by majority vote. The commission shall meet on a regular basis to research, gather evidence, testimony and advice in the manner that the members of the commission determine is most conducive to achieving the objectives of this act, provided, however, that the commission proceedings and activities shall be subject to the Open Meeting Law and the Public Records Law, and that all residents of Massachusetts have a reasonable opportunity to offer their views and ideas related to the policies herein to the commission.

 The commission shall work to inform citizens and legislators about the consequences and implications of bringing the commonwealth into alignment with the 2017 Nuclear Ban Treaty, including but not limited to a full appraisal of how jobs, technologies and industries currently devoted to nuclear weapons within the commonwealth could be converted to address climate change and other pressing social needs.

 The commission shall file a report with the clerks of the house and senate, and with the governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, and all Massachusetts members of the Massachusetts federal congressional delegation no later than July 31, 2021.

 The final report of the commission shall include the following: an inventory of all companies, facilities and institutions in the state involved in the nuclear weapons industry, an inventory of all state investments, including state pension funds, held in companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry, an inventory of all state contracts with companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry, including the total value of each contract, documentation of the economic impact that the nuclear weapons industry has on the state, including but not limited to the total workforce employed by the industry in the state, the total revenue generated in the state from the industry, and all facilities and infrastructure utilized and/or managed by the nuclear weapons industry within the state, an inventory of the total number of jobs and contracts directly related to prohibited activities as designated under the Nuclear Ban Treaty, an inventory of the transferable skills, technology, and infrastructure employed by the nuclear weapons industry and recommendations for how they may be converted to industry and technology that address climate change or other relevant and pressing social needs, recommendations for an appropriate nuclear industry conversion timeline, including an assessment of the estimated cost of conversion to the state and federal government, recommendations for establishing procedures that screen all potential state contracts for involvement in the nuclear weapons industry, an analysis of the impact that state conversion from the nuclear weapons industry to industries which address climate change and other relevant social needs will have on that state economy and the US nuclear weapons industry, and recommendations for any and all additional steps the state can take to influence the federal government to sign and ratify the Nuclear Ban Treaty. The commission shall make any necessary recommendations to the general court on legislation designed to bring the commonwealth into alignment with the treaty.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 363 FILED ON: 1/12/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2162**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Diana DiZoglio***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for payment by the Commonwealth of wages for members of the United States Coast Guard during the shut-down, so-called, of the United States Government.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *Diana DiZoglio* | *First Essex* |  |
| *Patrick M. O'Connor* | *Plymouth and Norfolk* | *1/15/2019* |
| *Julian Cyr* | *Cape and Islands* | *1/18/2019* |
| *Mathew J. Muratore* | *1st Plymouth* | *1/23/2019* |
| *Michael O. Moore* | *Second Worcester* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Maria Duaime Robinson* | *6th Middlesex* | *2/7/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 363 FILED ON: 1/12/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2162**

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| By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2162) of Diana DiZoglio, Patrick M. O'Connor, Julian Cyr, Mathew J. Muratore and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide payment by the Commonwealth of wages for members of the United States Coast Guard during the shut-down, so-called, of the United States Government. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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An Act providing for payment by the Commonwealth of wages for members of the United States Coast Guard during the shut-down, so-called, of the United States Government.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

 SECTIOn 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary the salaries of members of the United States Coast Guard who are residents of the Commonwealth shall be paid by the Commonwealth during the so-called federal government shut-down. The funds for such payments shall be paid from an account to be recommended by the Governor and determined by the committees on Ways and Means.

 Upon the conclusion of the so-called federal government shut-down, the Commonwealth shall seek reimbursement from the federal government for the cost of all such payments made to such Coast Guard members.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 858 FILED ON: 1/16/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2163**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***James B. Eldridge***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions for a United States Constitutional Amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* |  |
| *Carmine Lawrence Gentile* | *13th Middlesex* |  |
| *Christopher Hendricks* | *11th Bristol* | *1/22/2019* |
| *Paul A. Schmid, III* | *8th Bristol* | *1/22/2019* |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* | *1/22/2019* |
| *Edward J. Kennedy* | *First Middlesex* | *1/22/2019* |
| *Jason M. Lewis* | *Fifth Middlesex* | *1/23/2019* |
| *Diana DiZoglio* | *First Essex* | *1/23/2019* |
| *Daniel R. Carey* | *2nd Hampshire* | *1/24/2019* |
| *Michael F. Rush* | *Norfolk and Suffolk* | *1/25/2019* |
| *Joanne M. Comerford* | *Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester* | *1/25/2019* |
| *Walter F. Timilty* | *Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth* | *1/25/2019* |
| *Thomas M. Stanley* | *9th Middlesex* | *1/28/2019* |
| *Jennifer E. Benson* | *37th Middlesex* | *1/29/2019* |
| *Patrick M. O'Connor* | *Plymouth and Norfolk* | *1/30/2019* |
| *Edward F. Coppinger* | *10th Suffolk* | *1/30/2019* |
| *Patricia D. Jehlen* | *Second Middlesex* | *1/31/2019* |
| *Denise Provost* | *27th Middlesex* | *1/31/2019* |
| *John F. Keenan* | *Norfolk and Plymouth* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Sal N. DiDomenico* | *Middlesex and Suffolk* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Joan B. Lovely* | *Second Essex* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Mark C. Montigny* | *Second Bristol and Plymouth* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Julian Cyr* | *Cape and Islands* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Sean Garballey* | *23rd Middlesex* | *2/1/2019* |
| *Paul R. Feeney* | *Bristol and Norfolk* | *3/1/2019* |
| *Brian M. Ashe* | *2nd Hampden* | *7/19/2019* |
| *Daniel J. Ryan* | *2nd Suffolk* | *7/24/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 858 FILED ON: 1/16/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2163**

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| By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 2163) of James B. Eldridge, Carmine Lawrence Gentile, Christopher Hendricks, Paul A. Schmid, III and other members of the General Court for the adoption of Resolutions for a United States Constitutional Amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolutions for a United States Constitutional Amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention.

 WHEREAS, the 1st President of the United States George Washington stated, “The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government."; and

 WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone." (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

 WHEREAS, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted the will of the people by undermining our ability to choose our political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of our state; and

 WHEREAS, corporations are artificial entities that governments create and, as such, do not possess the same unalienable rights of natural persons protected by the Constitution; and

 WHEREAS, corporations have used a claim to the rights enumerated in the US Constitution, including under the 1st, 4th, 5th and 14th Amendments, to challenge and overturn democratically enacted laws protecting the public interest; and

 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; and

 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sees the need for a convention to propose amendments in order to address concerns about the integrity of our elections and about the ability of the people to participate in effective self-government, specifically those concerns arising from the United States Supreme Court’s rulings limiting the ability of the legislature to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections and granting constitutional rights to corporations; and desires that said convention should be so limited; and

 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts desires that the delegates to said convention shall be comprised equally from individuals currently elected to state and local office, or be selected by election in each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the Convention, and intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and

 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts intends that this application shall constitute a continuing application, considered together with applications on this subject such as those passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Massachusetts notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds of the Several States have applied for a Convention and said Convention is convened by Congress;

 Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that it calls on Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution that would affirm that (a) the rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons, i.e. human individuals, only and (b) Congress and the states shall place limits on political contributions and expenditures to ensure that all citizens have access to the political process, and the spending of money to influence elections is not protected free speech under the First Amendment; and

 Be it further Resolved, that if Congress does not propose this constitutional amendment within 6 months of the passage of this bill, then this bill constitutes a petition by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to the Congress to call a limited Convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing Amendments, as prescribed previously herein, to the Constitution of the United States of America addressing, inter alia, concerns raised by Citizens United v. FEC, McCutcheon v. FEC and related decisions, as soon as two-thirds of the several States have applied for a Convention; and

 Be it further Resolved, that this petition shall not be considered by the U.S. Congress until 33 other states submit petitions for the same purpose as proposed by Massachusetts in this resolution and unless the Congress determines that the scope of amendments to the Constitution of the United States considered by the convention shall be limited to the same purpose requested by Massachusetts; and

 Be it further Resolved, that the Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States and addressed to him at the legislative office which he maintains in Suite No. S-212 of the United States Capitol Building, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, to each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States, to the Governor of each State, and to the presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several States, requesting the cooperation of the several States in issuing an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1302 FILED ON: 1/17/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2165**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Patricia D. Jehlen***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |  |
| *Patricia D. Jehlen* | *Second Middlesex* |  |
| *Jack Patrick Lewis* | *7th Middlesex* | *1/29/2019* |
| *Mike Connolly* | *26th Middlesex* | *1/29/2019* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* | *1/31/2019* |
| *Rebecca L. Rausch* | *Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex* | *1/31/2019* |
| *Tami L. Gouveia* | *14th Middlesex* | *5/2/2019* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1302 FILED ON: 1/17/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2165**

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| By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by resolutions, Senate, No. 2165) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Jack Patrick Lewis, Mike Connolly, James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolutions to prevent the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States.

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

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

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

 WHEREAS the United States is currently planning to spend nearly $2 trillion over the next 30 years rebuilding its entire nuclear weapons arsenal—a gross misuse of funds that could be devoted instead to improving security, health, and education; and

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

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

 WHEREAS the U.S. president has sole authority to order a nuclear attack without any consultation or input, which increases the chance of nuclear use; and

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

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

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

 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as an important first step the Legislature calls on the president to make it the policy of the United States that it will not start a nuclear war and will therefore not use nuclear weapons first, and calls on the Congress to pass legislation supporting this policy; and

 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States.

 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature calls upon each Senator and Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States to attach such language to other legislation wherever appropriate.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 380 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2169**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis*, (BY REQUEST)**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve for memorializing the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for general support of NATO, and public education regarding this subject matter.

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PETITION OF:

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| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Vincent Lawrence Dixon* | *60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 380 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2169**

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| By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 2169) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to memorialize the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for general support of NATO, and public education regarding this subject matter. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolve for memorializing the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for general support of NATO, and public education regarding this subject matter.

 Resolved, 1.) The Great and General Court of Massachusetts, hereby Resolves that we generally support, the long-established membership of The United States, as a member state, of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Since its founding in 1949, it has grown, helped

 to secure the peace of the North Atlantic, and much of Europe, and expanded freedom across many countries.

 2.) Many of our NATO allies, have fought together with us, in recent, and ongoing conflicts, and have provided significant assistance to us, in our ongoing war against terrorism.

 3.) It is in the interests of keeping peace, and expanding freedom, that The United States remain active, and supportive of NATO, and Massachusetts wishes to go on record, as supporting those efforts.

 4.) Massachusetts as a leader, in The United States, and The United States as a leader in The North Atlantic Community, would benefit, by both strong support, and significant public education, on the values, and benefits of this membership, and its role in our lives.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 383 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2170**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis*, (BY REQUEST)**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve memorializing the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal.

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PETITION OF:

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| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| *Vincent Lawrence Dixon* | *60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890* |

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 383 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No. 2170**

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| By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 2170) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to memorialize the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal. Veterans and Federal Affairs. |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

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Resolve memorializing the Massachusetts Delegation, and the United States Congress, on the need for a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal.

 Resolved, 1.) That the Great and General Court of Massachusetts, recognizing the great humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, and the concern of so many, for the people suffering from that, memorializes the Massachusetts delegation to Congress, and The United States Congress,

 on the need for a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal, of the International Criminal Court.

 2.) In recent years, tens of thousands of Syrians have been brutally slaughtered, and millions forced to flee, and become refugees, straining the resources of the rest of the world, and simply crying out for forms of justice.

 3.) Massachusetts calls upon Congress, to seek appropriate actions, that will lead to the convening of a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal, of the International Criminal Court, so that the war crimes, and crimes against humanity, may be investigated, and individuals deciding to, and

 carrying out such crimes, be brought to justice, by arrest, and proper trial.

 4.) The Great and General Court, supports publicity, and sound information, in accomplishing these goals.