

SENATE No. 2165

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/2/2019</i>

SENATE No. 2165

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature transmit copies of
33 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the

34 House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
35 Representative from Massachusetts in the Congress of the United States.

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