Whereas, AMA policies concerning weapons, which were modified last in 2015, voice clear “opposition to nuclear war” (Ref 1) and support for “the elimination by all nations of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction” (Ref 2); and

Whereas, millions have been sickened or killed by nuclear weapons testing around the world since 1945, yet the United Nation’s Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1996 and ratified by 178 countries as of March 2024, has failed to enter into force because the United States and other nuclear weapons possessing countries have not ratified it and because, ominously, Vladimir Putin’s government withdrew its ratification in 2023 (Ref 3); and

Whereas, AMA policy supports a “comprehensive nuclear test ban” and encourages the US Government to “to continue the process of bilateral and verifiable nuclear arms reduction”, (Ref 4 & 5) but that process has stalled; and

Whereas, seventy-six years after the 1945 bombs that killed hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in Japan, the United Nation’s Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at last became international law in 2021, though the Treaty is not ratified yet by any country that possesses nuclear weapons, (Ref 6); and

Whereas, the US government plans to spend $1.7-3 trillion over the next thirty years to update its thousands of nuclear bombs and delivery systems, money that the concepts of intersectional justice (Ref 7) dictate should be better spent on healthcare, education, housing and other needs; and

Whereas, a strategy towards implementing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been enunciated (Ref 8); and

Whereas, this strategy has been endorsed by hundreds of local governments, civil society organizations, and medical organizations, including the Maine Medical Association, American Public Health Association, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Union of Concerned Scientists, (Ref 9); and

Whereas, the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pakistani region involving nuclear weapons possessing countries are raising the risk of an intentional or accidental nuclear war with devastating health consequences; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association calls for the United States and the other nuclear weapons states to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 007
(A-24)

Introduced by: American Association of Public Health Physicians
Subject: AMA Supports a Strategy for Eliminating Nuclear Weapons
Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws
Resolution: 007  (A-24)
Page 2 of 3

Nuclear Weapons and to pursue good-faith negotiations on effective measures relating to the
cessation of the nuclear arms race (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA calls for the United States to renounce the option to be the first
country to use nuclear weapons (“first use”) during a conflict (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA supports a process whereby multiple individuals, rather than solely
the President, are required to approve a nuclear attack, while still allowing a swift response
when needed (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA calls on the US government to cancel plans to rebuild its entire
nuclear arsenal and instead to reassess its true strategic needs for the types and numbers of
nuclear weapons and delivery systems. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between $1,000 - $5,000

Received: 4/24/2024

REFERENCES
1. H-520.999 Opposition to Nuclear War
   The AMA recognizes the catastrophic dangers to all life in the event of nuclear war and supports efforts for the prevention of
   such a nuclear holocaust.
2. H-520.988 Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass and Indiscriminate Destruction
   The AMA supports the elimination by all nations of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass and indiscriminate
   destruction.
4. H-520.994 Nuclear Test Ban
   The AMA acknowledges the threat from nuclear weapons to the health of the people of the world and favors the establishment
   of a mutual, verifiable, and comprehensive nuclear test ban
5. D-440.972 Safety from Nuclear Weapons and Medical Consequences of Nuclear War
   Our AMA will support legislation that would protect public health and safety, should the testing of nuclear weapons by the
   United States be resumed.
   Our AMA will urge the U.S. and all national governments to continue to work to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons and will
   collaborate with relevant stakeholders to increase public awareness and education on the topic of the medical and
   environmental consequences of nuclear war.
   Accessed 3.28.2024
9. APHA Policy 20209: https://www.apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy/Public-Health-Policy-Statements/Policy-

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-520.999 Opposition to Nuclear War
The AMA recognizes the catastrophic dangers to all life in the event of nuclear war and supports efforts
for the prevention of such a nuclear holocaust.
Citation: (Sub. Res. 82, A-81; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-98; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 2, A-08;
Reaffirmed: Res. 524, A-15)

H-520.988 Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass and Indiscriminate
Destruction
The AMA supports the elimination by all nations of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass and
indiscriminate destruction.
H-520.994 Nuclear Test Ban
The AMA acknowledges the threat from nuclear weapons to the health of the people of the world and favors the establishment of a mutual, verifiable, and comprehensive nuclear test ban.

D-440.972 Safety from Nuclear Weapons and Medical Consequences of Nuclear War
1. Our AMA will support legislation that would protect public health and safety, should the testing of nuclear weapons by the United States be resumed.
2. Our AMA will urge the U.S. and all national governments to continue to work to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons and will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to increase public awareness and education on the topic of the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war.
Res. 436, A-05 Appended: Res. 524, A-15