

1 **Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons and to ban the use**
2 **of Weapons of Mass Destruction**
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4 **WHEREAS** the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the power . . .to
5 declare war." Congress having the authority to provide funding. . . or withhold funding.
6 Congress, as such, maintaining a separation of Powers granted by the Constitution, has the
7 authority to retain the powerto declare war;

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9 **WHEREAS** the President currently has sole authority to launch a first-use nuclear strike, a
10 policy that increases the risk of nuclear war and is vulnerable to accidents and
11 miscommunication;

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13 **WHEREAS** U.S. policies such as maintaining nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert and
14 continuing to not adopt an explicit "no-first use" policy, are destabilizing and threaten
15 national security;

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17 **WHEREAS** reducing the dangers from nuclear weapons remains one of the highest national
18 security priorities;

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20 **WHEREAS** one Trident submarine has the potential destructive equivalent of over 5,800
21 Hiroshima bombs;

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23 **WHEREAS** retaining the current US arsenal of nearly 7,000 nuclear weapons defies common
24 sense and fiscal responsibility, at a time we need housing, healthcare, public education, and a
25 response to climate change;

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27 **WHEREAS** 122 UN member countries voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of
28 Nuclear Weapons, which prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing,
29 manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear
30 weapons;

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32 **WHEREAS** we know that no one wins a nuclear war and there is no such thing as a
33 limited nuclear war; and

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35 **WHEREAS** we all breathe the same air and drink the same water, and must prevent the
36 possibility of accidental or deliberate nuclear war;

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats oppose
39 allowing the destabilizing Presidential authority for first strike capability and the
40 nuclear arms race this provokes;

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats
44 support An Act of Congress restricting The First Use of Nuclear Weapons and to pass
45 such related legislation that will prevent any President or Military Officers or Military
46 Commands from unilaterally launching a nuclear strike without first receiving a
47 Congressional Declaration of War Authorization; and
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49 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge our
50 Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor and pass such legislation to Restrict First Use of
51 Nuclear Weapons and instead invest in diplomacy, seeking Peace, and the critical democratic
52 needs of all of our citizens and preserve our national security.
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54 Submitted by the Pierce County Democrats.

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56 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 15, 2018
57 meeting.

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59 The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16, 2018.