

*The physician and health advocate voice for a world free from nuclear threats
and a safe, healthy environment for all communities.*



Physicians for Social Responsibility
Los Angeles

August 1, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Resolution 18-0002-S94 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons - SUPPORT

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Council President Wesson, and LA City Councilmembers:

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) writes in full support of resolution 18-0002-S94, which urges our federal leaders to embrace U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and take other critical measures to prevent nuclear war including ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and canceling U.S. plans to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

PSR-LA was founded in 1980 as a chapter of the national organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR.) PSR is the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize and Partner Organization of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. PSR-LA advocates for policies and practices that protect public health from nuclear and environmental threats and eliminate health disparities. Our current programs include Air and Climate Justice, Land Use and Health, Toxics, and Nuclear Threats.

This resolution is an important and timely call to action to prevent nuclear war. Nuclear weapons are capable of causing death, injury, and illness on a scale modern medicine cannot address. A single detonation could kill hundreds of thousands, contaminate the environment, and deliver a devastating economic blow. A nuclear war would threaten humanity itself. In January, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the hand on its allegorical "Doomsday Clock" to 2 minutes before midnight. The Bulletin, founded by Manhattan Project scientists, annually analyzes both climate change and nuclear weapons to assess dangers to humanity and the planet. This year, it concluded that the greatest risks were in the nuclear realm, and that "To call the world nuclear situation dire is to understate the danger—and its immediacy."

Adding to this sense of urgency is the Trump administration's proposal to spend over 1.7 trillion dollars to rebuild our entire nuclear arsenal, diverting resources from pressing human needs and launching a new arms race. Building new nuclear weapons increases the likelihood of their use, especially with so-called "low-yield" weapons. New nuclear weapons production also poses

significant threats to human health and the environment, such as the resumption of nuclear testing and the creation of tons of deadly long-lived radioactive waste for which there is no credible safe long-term storage. Nuclear waste and contamination from Cold War weapons production continues to threaten communities and vital ecosystems throughout the country, and we must not add to this toxic burden.

The concrete policy solutions recommended in resolution 18-0002-S94 provide a pathway out of danger and into a healthier, safer world. The City of Los Angeles has long been a leader on important environmental and social policies and must be again on the critical issue of nuclear weapons. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important and timely resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Dina Argüello".

Martha Dina Argüello
Executive Director