

**Testimony in support of
SJM 5
Urging Congress to lead global effort to reduce threat of nuclear war
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Thank you so much for accepting my testimony. And thank you to Senator Dembrow (of whom I am a constituent), Rep. Sanchez, and my State Representative Keny-Guyer for your sponsorship of SJM 5.

I have spent my career as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, working to ensure healthy lives for children of all ages—those who will inherit our planet. I cannot think of any part of my work that is more pressing and compelling than prevention of war—most dramatically of nuclear war. For that reason, I am an active member of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

I want to encourage you to think the same way with regard to the importance of standing against nuclear war as a foundational aspect of your work. What can be more critical than to prevent that for which we have no treatment, that which will create a disaster far beyond even our wildest imagination—a catastrophe of metrics we cannot even comprehend? The word “catastrophe is not an understatement. The [2018 Doomsday Clock Statement](#) from the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists declared that, *“Although the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists focuses on nuclear risk, climate change, and emerging technologies, the nuclear landscape takes center stage in this year’s Clock statement. Major nuclear actors are on the cusp of a new arms race, one that will be very expensive and will increase the likelihood of accidents and misperceptions. Across the globe, nuclear weapons are poised to become more rather than less usable because of nations’ investments in their nuclear arsenals. This is a concern that the Bulletin has been highlighting for some time, but momentum toward this new reality is increasing.”*^[i]

In 1986, Dr. David Hamburg [wrote an essay](#) in an Institute of Medicine publication, “*The Medical Implications of Nuclear War*”. Referring to what is required of all of us to prevent nuclear war, Dr. Hamburg wrote, *“What the world requires (to reduce the risk of nuclear war) is really a mobilization—something akin to a wartime mobilization of the best possible intellectual, technical, and moral resources...”*^[ii]

Now, 33 years after Dr. Hamburg and many others issued pleas for disarmament, we have moved in the wrong direction with more nations developing or possessing nuclear weapons, plans for spending \$1.2 trillion on the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and rhetoric from the Administration that the use of force over diplomacy is “on the table”.

As an advocate for health and human service programs, I cannot imagine a more wasteful and morally bankrupt use of funds than on weapons. When over [16%](#) of Oregon’s children live in poverty^[iii] placing us [23rd of all states](#) in 2018^[iv], we have the

moral obligation to speak up to our Federal elected officials to demand a reallocation of money from weapons of destruction to programs for well-being.

Speaking on behalf of the signatories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 2015, H.E. Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria [issued a Joint Statement on the Consequences of Nuclear Weapons](#). In that statement he said, “*This work is essential, because the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons affect not only governments, but each and every citizen of our interconnected world. They have deep implications for human survival; for our environment; for socioeconomic development; for our economies; and for the health of future generations.*”^[v]

I urge you, as our elected representatives for Oregon AND as citizens in a very fragile global community to be the “canaries in the coal mine”—sending a clear moral message to our Federal officials that Oregonians wants the U.S. to sign onto the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to take the measures outlined in SJM 5 to prevent nuclear weapons from ever being used again.

Please vote yes on SJM 5 to reduce the risks of nuclear war. Please do this for all the children of Oregon and of the world. Thank you.

[i] Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, *It is 2 minutes to midnight: 2018 Doomsday clock statement*. <https://thebulletin.org/sites/default/files/2018%20Doomsday%20Clock%20Statement.pdf>

[ii] Hamburg, D.A., 1986, *Understanding and preventing nuclear war: The expanding role of the scientific community*, from *The Medical Implications of Nuclear War*, Institute of Medicine (US) Steering Committee for the Symposium on the Medical Implications of Nuclear War; Solomon F, Marston RQ, editors. Washington (DC).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK219169/>

[iii] Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity, Oregon Statistics, 2019, <https://spotlightonpoverty.org/states/oregon/>

[iv] Talk Poverty-State by Year Report-Oregon, 2018, <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/oregon-2018-report/>

[v] Kurtz, H.E. Sebastian, 2015, *2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons* http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/npt/revcon2015/statements/28April_AustriaHumanitarian.pdf