

Appeal to Address Nuclear Threats on International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (September 26)

Opportunity for Special Order Speeches

Dear Members of the Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group, and other legislators working toward global peace and security,

September 26 marks the [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#). To mark the occasion, your colleague, Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA-02) has reserved a one-hour Special Order for speeches by lawmakers on the need for the United States to pursue nuclear risk reduction negotiations.

We, the undersigned leaders of the Physicists Coalition for Nuclear Threat Reduction, respectfully encourage you to speak up about the civilization-ending potential of the use of nuclear weapons, and to oppose any, and all threats to use these weapons.

In 2022, the United States joined other nuclear-weapon states to declare that “nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” That same year, the Group of 20 (G-20) states, an intergovernmental forum that includes the United States, [declared](#) “The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible.”

In the same year, over 1,000 scientists [called](#) for “immediate and concrete actions” towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, and declared unequivocally that “any threat to use nuclear weapons, at any time and under any circumstances, is extremely dangerous and totally unacceptable.” The scientists called on “all people and governments everywhere to clearly condemn all nuclear threats, explicit or implicit, and any use of such weapons.”

Building on these promises and calls to action, we encourage you to

- Call for reducing risks and costs associated with nuclear weapons.
- Bring attention to the violations and undermining of global commitments and norms on development, testing, use, and threats of use of nuclear weapons, and emphasize the need to reinforce these commitments and norms.
- Call for the pursuit of arms control diplomacy to avoid a potential nuclear arms race with Russia and China, which is of particular concern given the impending expiration of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) in Feb. 2026.
- Provide a pathway to fulfill our long-standing obligation to achieve nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

As you know, September 27 is the “fly-out” day before Congress recesses until after Election Day, making this occasion ripe and critical for addressing the issues mentioned above.

If you are interested in joining the effort, please contact Cindy Buhl <cindy.buhl@mail.house.gov> at Rep. McGovern's office to schedule a speech on the 26th.

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