

Say NO to the \$Trillion Tax Dollar Nuclear Weapons Escalation!

The World's Most Dangerous and Immoral Weapons



Nuclear weapons have the potential to wreak unprecedented destruction upon the peoples of world. Each nuclear weapon currently in the U.S. arsenal has up to 1,000 times the destructive capacity of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even a limited nuclear war in which only 100 warheads are used would produce unimaginable damage, killing up to a billion people directly and indirectly due to the fallout and nuclear winter that would follow. Despite these dangers, the United States maintains over 1,900 operational nuclear warheads on hair trigger alert, in addition to 4,700 in its stockpile.

The Fundamental Immorality of Nuclear Weapons

All nuclear weapons are deeply and fundamentally immoral, as they obliterate every living creature indiscriminately in the blast zones. Nuclear weapons have been ruled illegal under international law, following the Geneva Convention, and should be eliminated by treaty, as Chemical and Biological Weapons have been. As noted by Pope Francis in his address to the United Nations: *"The Preamble and Charter of the United Nations set forth the foundations of the international juridical framework: peace, the pacific solution of disputes and the development of friendly relations between the nations. Strongly opposed to such statements, ... is the constant tendency to the proliferation of arms, especially weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons.... There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the non-proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons."*

The Obama Administration's Plan to Upgrade the Nuclear Arsenal

After earlier reducing nuclear weapons in the 2010 New START Treaty, the Obama administration has now proposed a trillion dollar plan to upgrade the US nuclear weapons arsenal over the next 30 years. The "modernization" proposed would not merely keep existing military capability level, but would be a technological escalation. If implemented, this plan would expose the US as hypocritical in its call to non-nuclear nations to refrain from getting nuclear weapons, and for other nuclear nations to show restraint and cut back their arsenals.

Human and Taxpayer Cost of the Nuclear Weapons Upgrade

The total cost of the U.S. nuclear weapons escalation program is estimated at over \$1 trillion over the next three decades. This represents an increase of \$35 billion per year in US nuclear weapons spending, raising nuclear weapons' share of military spending from the current 3% to 7%.

These programs are paid for with our income tax dollars. Funding these programs will require cutting almost all major programs that fund urgent domestic needs such as housing, public transit, food stamps, medical research, education, environmental protection and energy sustainability.

The high costs of these programs insure high profits to the corporations receiving the contracts for the “modernization” program. These corporations are the leading lobbyists in the country promoting this dangerous, provocative and amoral nuclear weapons escalation.

Some of the most costly aspects of the program include 12 new SSNB(X) submarines at \$347 billion, the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) at \$62 billion, the Long Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) at \$42 billion, and the Long Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) at \$25 billion. On top of the delivery systems, roughly \$65 billion has been allocated to warhead upgrades.

Nuclear Enhancements Will Make us Less Safe

The upgrading of nuclear warheads increases the risk of nuclear war, accidental or intentional. Warhead upgrades will produce more accurate, and more lethal weapons. Such warhead upgrades are perceived as incredibly provocative by other nuclear powers and therefore represent an escalation of policy regarding the usability of the weapons. The U.S. nuclear escalation would almost certainly elicit a new nuclear arms race, leaving all countries less secure. Thus the nuclear weapons upgrade policy is destabilizing and dangerous to Americans and all the world’s peoples.

How Can We Stop it?

The SANE Act (S. 831 and H.R. 1534), sponsored by Senator Ed Markey [D-MA] and Rep. Earl Blumenauer [D-OR], would prohibit funds for the development of the new Long Range Penetrating Bomber and F-35 nuclear mission, restrict the cost of nuclear warhead modernization, and terminate the SSNB(X) program and many of the new production facilities. Collectively, these cuts would reduce the cost of nuclear modernization by \$100 billion throughout the next decade. The Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA) urges concerned citizens to contact their US senators and representative and call on them to support the SANE Act.

CFPA also commends the *Don't Bank on the Bomb* campaign which calls on city pension funds, universities, and responsible investors to divest from corporations involved in the production and development of nuclear weapons.

There is much to do, but so many got involved that we succeeded in reversing the nuclear arms race in the 1980’s, which has led to an 80% reduction in global arsenals to date! **Together we can stop the new nuclear arms race!** Contact CFPA below to get involved!



For further information, or to get involved, contact:

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