

Why Do We Still Have ICBMs?

Ultimately, partial self-interest prevails over the common good of humanity, PLUS collective delusions about what makes us safe.

To begin—Let’s look at the U.S. nuclear weapons “modernization” program initiated by President Obama in 2010, as the “price” for Republican approval of the New Start Treaty capping deployed nuclear weapons by the U.S. and Russia at 1550 each.

This “modernization” will upgrade or replace every element of the nuclear “triad,” costing \$1.7 trillion through 2046. It will include:

- 12 *Columbia*-class submarines to replace 14 Ohio-class submarines
- A new strategic bomber, the B-21 Raider, as many as 145 of them, with a new air-launched cruise missile
- Replace all 400 Minuteman III single warhead ICBM’s with 450 new multiple warhead missiles called the “Sentinel” designed to last into the 2070’s

Other nuclear-weapons states have their own “modernization” programs.

The result: the New Nuclear Arms Race.

Are there any legislative efforts to oppose “modernization?”

- None yet in the current, 119th Congressional Session (2025-26).
- In the 117th Congress (2021-22), H.R.4260 in the House and S.982 in the Senate were introduced but never acted on—the “ICBM Act” or “Cures Before Missiles Act” aimed to redirect funds from a new generation of ICBM’s to Covid-19 vaccine development. Rep. John Garamendi supported this legislation.
- However, there have been several House Resolutions introduced in the 119th Congress.

H.Res.317	<p>Sponsor: Rep. James McGovern (D-MA-2)</p> <p><u>Halt/reverse arms race, disarmament, TPNW goals</u></p> <p>Summary: This resolution urges the U.S. to take a leadership role in global nuclear disarmament, calls for ending the "hair-trigger alert" posture, supports checks on the President’s sole authority to order nuclear use, and advocates for maintaining the moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. It also supports the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), though it does not explicitly call for ratification. (Source: Perplexity)</p>
-----------	--

H.R.1888	<p>Sponsor: Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)</p> <p><u>Sign TPNW, global elimination of nuclear arms</u></p> <p>Summary: This bill directs the United States to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and commits to the global elimination of nuclear arms. Once all nuclear-armed nations begin verifiable disarmament, it would redirect U.S. nuclear weapons funding and industry resources to address the climate crisis and other critical needs. (Source: Perplexity)</p>
----------	--

H.Res.100/S.Res.61	<p><u>Supporting Arms Control and Talks with Russia and China</u></p> <p>House Resolution 100 and Senate Resolution 61 call for negotiations with Russia and China to end nuclear brinkmanship and maintain arms control agreements like New START. These resolutions condemn Russian nuclear rhetoric, call for Russia to return to full New START implementation, and urge continued dialogue to avoid an unrestrained nuclear arms race. (Source: Perplexity)</p>
--------------------	--

Our Congressional Representatives:

Senator Alex Padilla, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3553 <https://www.padilla.senate.gov>

Senator Adam Schiff, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3841 <https://www.schiff.senate.gov>

Representative Mark DeSaulnier, 10th District, 2134 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2095 <https://desaulnier.house.gov/>

Representative John Garamendi, 8th District, 2428 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-1880

Representative Lateefah Simon, 12th District, 1023 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-2661

Representative Eric Swalwell, 14th District, 174 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5065