

**Steven Sepe**

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**From:** William Waters <wjt看157@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:58 AM  
**To:** Rep. Shanley, Evan P.  
**Cc:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** House Resolution 7329, Nuclear Disarmament

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Hello Chairman Evan Shanley,  
Here is my testimony in favor of House Resolution 7329.  
I hope the RI House State Government & Elections Committee and  
the RI House  
will approve this essential resolution this year.  
Sincerely,  
William Waters  
157 Pleasant Street  
Rumford, RI 02916

### **RI House Resolution 7329**

Committee Chair & members of the committee, my name is William Waters. I am a member of Pax Christi RI. Pax Christi is a Catholic peace organization. Pax Christi means: Peace of Christ. Our way of proceeding is Prayer, Study, Action. Pax Christi RI's top priority is nuclear disarmament. Our world desperately needs to make progress to eliminate that clear & persistent existential threat. ICAN, the International Campaign to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, states: "Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. They violate international law, cause severe environmental damage, undermine national and global security, and divert vast public resources away from meeting human needs. They must be eliminated urgently."

On September 20, 2017, The Vatican, representing Pope Francis, was the first entity to sign and ratify the **United Nations Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons** (TPNW) pledging "unwavering commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons" Pope Francis has stated that the possession and use of nuclear weapons is immoral. 70 nations have now ratified the TPNW. In 2019, U.S. Representative James McGovern of Massachusetts introduced a House Resolution, which aims to embrace the aspirations and provisions outlined in the TPNW. In Rhode Island, the RI Senate and the towns of East Providence, Little Compton, Bristol, and Jamestown have endorsed the TPNW. Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, NM and Archbishop Paul Etienne of Seattle, WA have joined the Archdioceses of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan and

have "agreed to create a new initiative to promote the realization of a world without nuclear weapons." In an editorial dated August 24, 2023, The Rhode Island Catholic stated: "One may never do evil that good may come of it. And to directly target civilian populations for mass destruction is a gross moral evil."

So, some progress is being made toward nuclear disarmament. But, much more remains to be done. None of the nine countries possessing nuclear weapons, including the United States, is currently supporting the TPNW thus grossly endangering the whole human race. The RI House of Representatives can do its part in the drive for nuclear weapons sanity by passing House Resolution 7329. Either we eliminate nuclear weapons or they eliminate us.