

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed,

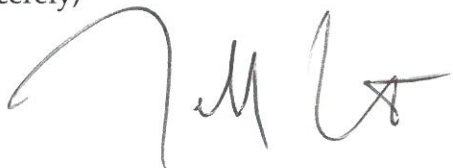
Physicians for Social Responsibility is counting on you to support the House decision to prevent deployment of the Trump administration's dangerous and unnecessary W76-2 nuclear warhead (the so-called "low yield nuclear weapon") as you finalize the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

As you know, Physicians for Social Responsibility is an organization led by health professionals working to prevent nuclear war and to eventually remove the threat of nuclear weapons completely. Any increase in the likelihood of a nuclear exchange translates to a decrease in national security. The difficulty distinguishing between Trident missiles carrying different warheads increases the chance of miscalculation and it means that the United States could stumble into a nuclear war.

Funds to deploy this warhead were eliminated in the House-passed legislation, and when presented with amendments to restore funding, the House consistently voted to reject those amendments, with near-unanimity among Democrats. Opposition in the Senate was highlighted by the 18 Senate Democrats who sent you a letter calling on you to support the House position in opposition to W76-2. As those Senators said "The W76-2 would reduce the threshold for nuclear use and make nuclear escalation more likely." PSR agrees with the 30 former senior officials--including former Secretaries Shultz and Perry and former Senators Lugar, Hart, Dorgan and Udall--who recommended on 5/13/2018 that Congress reject this "dangerous, unjustified, and redundant" weapon.

You have the power to correct this administration's path towards potential nuclear escalation, and we call on you to do so for the sake of our nation's health and its future.

Sincerely,



Jeff Carter, Executive Director