



**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**  
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January 10, 2019

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
c/o [Trent Holbrook](#), Legislative Assistant  
fax: 1-202-225-3002 fax  
2136 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-5101

Re: *Reintroduction of "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" – WILPF-US Proposed Updates*

Dear Ms. Norton:

We're delighted, but not in the least surprised, by your win in November. Congratulations!

We very much appreciated the excellent meeting with you last May during Alliance for Nuclear Accountability DC Days, and your agreement with our proposals for updating the "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" in this 116th Congress.

Attached are the edits we propose for the 2019-2020 version of your bill and a typescript of the existing bill and comparison "redline," with a page of notes at the end as to why we are recommending these revisions (we're not suggesting any "formatting changes" but formatted the current and proposed language just to make it easier to read and compare).

We have WILPF members eager to start lobbying on behalf of this new version of the bill, so we hope you will introduce it as soon as possible! As you know, coming up soon are some dates around which we could tie-in our activism around introduction of the new bill to such important events as: January 21, "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day" on the national calendar, and it would be a strong statement if introduced soon after the new Congress begins work; February 18 is Presidents' Day; and, looking at the United Nations calendar, February 20 is World Day of Social Justice, and March 8 is International Women's Day.

We would be grateful if you will have your staff contact us to discuss any revisions. Our individual emails and Ellen's telephone number are on the masthead to the left of this letter.

Thanks for all your good work, Ms. Norton. We truly appreciate your commitment to a denuclearized and peaceful, healthy planet.

ON BEHALF OF WILPF-US AND OUR DISARM-END WARS ISSUES COMMITTEE,

Robin Lloyd

Ellen Thomas

Barbara L Nielsen

- Atts.: 1. Proposed language for 2019 with changes and highlighted in *red italics*  
2. Notes explaining the changes  
3. Last session's HR-3853 with deleted sections highlighted in *blue italics*

# 1. Proposed Edits from WILPF-US

## A BILL

To provide for nuclear weapons abolition and economic conversion in accordance with District of Columbia Initiative Measure Number 37 of 1992, while ensuring environmental restoration and clean-energy conversion.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

- SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019.”
- SEC. 2. Requirement for nuclear weapons abolition and economic and energy conversion.
- (a) In general The United States Government shall
- (1) provide leadership *by signing and ratifying the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or any other international agreement\** that provides for
- (A) The dismantlement and elimination of all nuclear weapons in every country, (..) \*\* and
- (B) strict and effective international control of such dismantlement and elimination;
- (2) redirect resources that are being used for nuclear weapons programs to use
- (A) in converting all nuclear weapons industry (...) processes, plants, and programs, *and in retraining employees, to shift to a constructive, ecologically beneficial Peace Economy, which includes strict control of all fissile material and radioactive waste; \*\*\** and
- (B) in addressing human and infrastructure needs, including development and deployment of sustainable carbon-free and nuclear-free energy sources, health care, housing, education, agriculture, and environmental restoration, including long-term radioactive waste monitoring;
- (3) actively promote policies to induce all other countries to join in the commitments described in this subsection to create a more peaceful and secure world. *(formerly #4)*
- (b) **Effective date.** Subsection (a)(2) shall take effect on the date on which the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons *have begun such elimination under established legal requirements comparable to those described in subsection (a).* \*\*\*\*\*

## **2. Notes on WILPF-US Proposed Revisions**

**\* In paragraph 2(a)(1), the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is named, rather than "to negotiate and enter into a multilateral treaty," and "by the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act" is removed. For easy reference, check this site for the status of the UN Treaty: <http://icanw.org>.**

**\*\* In paragraph 2(a)(1)(A), remove "by not later than 2024" entirely if possible; or make the date 2035 as suggested by Marylia Kelley of Tri-Valley Cares, who wrote last year that it is not physically possible to dismantle and eliminate all nuclear weapons within six or seven years as specified in the 2017 bill. Marylia Kelley wrote:**

"Here are the facts that can be known: As of 2017, the U.S. has an inventory of 6,800 nuclear warheads; of these, 2,800 are retired and awaiting dismantlement and 4,018 are part of the U.S. stockpile.

"So, zero nuclear weapons = 6,800 dismantlements.

"The current rate varies a bit, but it has been in the neighborhood of 200 to 300/year.

"None of my technical sources has shared a number with me - we don't know a precise year because some designs present problems big time, others not at all. Consider there are almost always unanticipated problems.

"Arithmetically, in a perfect world, let's say 600/year times 11 years = 6,600.

"2019 (if enacted) would mean the 2020 budget request. 2020 + 11 years = 2031. Give a little wiggle room for problems and safety upgrades and you are at 15 years or 2035.

"I do not know if 2031 or 2035 is precisely correct, no one really knows for sure. But I do know that a number in that neighborhood is more likely than 2024, which I flagged as way too optimistic and not practical or possible."

**\*\*\* In paragraph 2(a)(2)(A), we realized that you can't convert employees, but you can retrain them, so we rewrote the language slightly to: "and in retraining employees, to shift to a constructive, ecologically beneficial Peace Economy, which includes strict control of all fissile material and radioactive waste"**

**\*\*\*\* Remove existing paragraph 2(a)(3), "undertake vigorous, good-faith efforts to eliminate war, armed conflict, and all military operations" – with hopes that by eliminating this clause more of your colleagues will be inclined to support the conversion bill. That issue deserves its own resolution. Make existing paragraph 2(a)(4) into paragraph 2(a)(3)**

**\*\*\*\*\* In paragraph 2(b) - Simplify the "date by" to a single statement, when "the president certifies that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun such elimination under established legal requirements comparable to those described in subsection (a)."**

### 3. 2017 HR-3853 text, discussed in May 2018

(for comparison - deleted sections in blue)

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. Requirement for nuclear weapons abolition and economic and energy conversion.

(a) In general.—The United States Government shall—

(1) provide leadership *to negotiate and enter into a multilateral treaty or other international agreement by the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act* that provides for—

(A) the dismantlement and elimination of all nuclear weapons in every country *by not later than 2024*; and

(B) strict and effective international control of such dismantlement and elimination;

(2) redirect resources that are being used for nuclear weapons programs to use—

(A) in converting all nuclear weapons industry *employees*, processes, plants, and programs *smoothly to constructive, ecologically beneficial peacetime activities*, including strict control of all fissile material and radioactive waste, during the period in which nuclear weapons must be dismantled and eliminated pursuant to the treaty or other international agreement described in paragraph (1); and

(B) in addressing human and infrastructure needs, including development and deployment of sustainable carbon-free and nuclear-free energy sources, health care, housing, education, agriculture, and environmental restoration, including long-term radioactive waste monitoring;

(3) *undertake vigorous, good-faith efforts to eliminate war, armed conflict, and all military operations; and*

(4) actively promote policies to induce all other countries to join in the commitments described in this subsection to create a more peaceful and secure world.

(b) Effective date.—Subsection (a)(2) shall take effect on the date on which the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have—

(1) *eliminated such weapons; or*

(2) begun such elimination under established legal requirements comparable to those described in subsection (a).

(...copied from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3853/text?r=1>)