

## **Resolution for the MSCA to Support the Divestment of the Massachusetts State Pension Fund from Nuclear Weapons**

**Maker: Catriona Standfield, Worcester State University**

**Seconder: Mohammad Salmassi, Framingham State University**

**WHEREAS** the international community, including humanitarian organizations like the International Red Cross, have recognized that any use of nuclear weapons presents an unacceptable threat of catastrophic humanitarian and environmental harm and that the only guaranteed way to prevent such a catastrophe is the total abolition of nuclear weapons; and

**WHEREAS** the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force in January 2021 and has created a clear international legal expectation regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Treaty prohibits parties from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, otherwise acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; transferring such weapons/devices or control over them to others; using or threatening the use of nuclear weapons; assisting anyone or seeking assistance from others to engage in these prohibited actions; or allowing the stationing of any nuclear weapons on its territory (Article I); and

**WHEREAS** the United States, as party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (1970) undertook under Article VI “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”, and yet obstructed negotiations on the TPNW, refused to join, and continues to pressure states parties to withdraw from the treaty; and

**Whereas** the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, cofounded by Albert Einstein, has currently set the 2022 Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight in recognition of increasing nuclear threats; and Russia, a nuclear-weapon state, has threatened to use nuclear weapons in the conflict over Ukraine; and

**WHEREAS** Massachusetts state legislators in the House and Senate are calling for the establishment of a special citizens’ commission to “investigate and report on what measures may be necessary and appropriate to protect the citizens of the commonwealth from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and to contribute towards the total elimination of these weapons from all countries in line with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” (Bills S.1556 and H.3688); and

**WHEREAS** Massachusetts state legislators in the House and Senate are also calling for the divestment of Massachusetts state pension funds from “any company that develops, tests, produces, maintains, or engages in the trade of nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon systems” (Bills S.1703 and H.2597); and

**WHEREAS** the global labor movement has long been active in the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

The MSCA Treasurer shall investigate whether MSCA has any direct or indirect investments in nuclear weapons, with the assistance of any ad hoc committee the Board of Directors may create for that purpose, and undertake any relevant divestment action; and

The MSCA President shall issue a public statement in support of proposed legislation on the divestment of Massachusetts state pension funds from nuclear weapons and on the establishment of a special citizens commission, post this statement on its website and social media, and convey it to its members along with information on how members can express their support for this proposed legislation; and

The President shall write to the President and Speaker of the Massachusetts State Senate and House, respectively, to express MSCA's support for the proposed legislation on divestment and establishing a citizens commission; and

The President shall convey a copy of the statement of support to other public sector unions in Massachusetts and encourage them to take a similar stance; and

That the MSCA President shall submit a proposed Resolution on Divestment from Nuclear Weapons as a new business item, at the upcoming Massachusetts Teachers Association Annual meeting.