

A **SANE** Way to Save Money and Reduce the Nuclear Weapons Arsenal: H.R. 3974

On February 8, Rep. Ed Markey (MA) and 34 other members of Congress introduced H.R. 3974, the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act.

The SANE Act would freeze, delay and cut funding for nuclear weapons and related programs. This would result in savings of \$100 billion over 10 years.

Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, our country still spends billions of dollars a year on a nuclear weapons program built for that bygone era. The current U.S. nuclear stockpile includes more than 5,000 nuclear warheads. Even with the reductions required by the New START treaty with Russia, 1,550 of these warheads will still be deployed by 2020.



Even scholars at military universities think the U.S. nuclear arsenal is too large. In 2010, Gary Schaub of the Air War College and James Forsyth of the U.S. Air Force Air University argued that the deployed nuclear arsenal could be as small as 311 warheads and still provide a credible nuclear deterrent.

In today's difficult budget environment, the cosponsors of the SANE Act have raised important questions in Congress about the wisdom of spending so much on nuclear weapons. The bill is an important step toward reducing our nuclear arsenal and a practical step in addressing the country's budget problems.

How Would the SANE Act Work?

The SANE Act cuts a number of oversized or unnecessary nuclear weapons programs in the Defense and Energy Departments.

The bill would:

- Cut the number of ballistic-missile submarines from 14 to eight and delay the purchase of replacement submarines.
- Reduce the number of submarine-launched ballistic missiles from 410 to 250.¹
- Reduce the number of ICBMs from 772 to 200.²
- End the nuclear mission of strategic bombers.
- Cancel new, wasteful nuclear weapons facilities.
- Require a clear accounting of future nuclear weapons spending.

GET INVOLVED!

Contact your Representative

As of March 16, ten more members of Congress have cosponsored the SANE Act. To see a complete list of cosponsors, visit:

www.fcnl.org/issues/nuclear/Markey_cosponsors/.

Congressman Paul Tonko has not yet become a cosponsor. Please contact him and ask him to help increase support for these sensible cuts to the nuclear arsenal by asking him to cosponsor the bill.

- Call his Albany office: (518) 465-0700
- Send an email through his website: <http://tonko.house.gov/>

Spread the Word

Increase your impact by sharing this factsheet with others.

Photo: U.S. Navy

¹ Gary Schaub Jr. and James Forsyth Jr., "An Arsenal We Can All Live With," *New York Times*, May 23, 2010.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/24/opinion/24schaub.html>.

² Hans M. Kristensen, "US Releases Full New START Data," *Federation of American Scientists*, December 12, 2011.

<http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2011/12/newstartnumbers.php>.

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