

**The Global Security Priorities Act, H. Res. 278**, (introduced by Rep. Jim McGovern (Democrat of Massachusetts) and Dan Lungren (Republican of California), calls for deep reductions in U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals with some of the savings from these reductions directed toward nuclear threat reduction plus a well-targeted international effort aimed at addressing the Millennium Development Goals of reducing child mortality and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

As a first step, the Global Security Priorities Act urges the United States to provide an additional \$2.5 billion annually over the next five years for fresh efforts to save children's lives and calls on Russia to make its own contributions. The deep reductions in U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals advocated in the resolution would save at least \$13 billion annually. H. Res. 278 also calls for redirecting \$3.5 billion of the savings toward increased nuclear security efforts, including \$1 billion in new funds annually to expand and accelerate the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and \$2.5 billion per year over the next five years for other nonproliferation programs.

H. Res. 278 needs to gather majority support on a bi-partisan basis in the House of Representatives to make this vision into a reality.

H Res 278 is endorsed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and many others, including the Office of the Decade to Overcome Violence of the World Council of Churches; the US Fund for UNICEF; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Council for a Livable World; The Union of Concerned Scientists. NETWORK: the Catholic Social Justice Lobby; the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church; Faithful Security: the National Religious Partnership on the Nuclear Weapons Danger; and The Two Futures Project.

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#### **FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON H. RES. 278**

Rep. Jim McGovern (Democratic of Massachusetts) and Rep. Dan Lungren (Republican of California), two influential members of the House Budget Committee who have demonstrated ability to deliver concrete results, introduced The Global Security Priorities Act on March 24, 2009. The strong bipartisan nature of Congressional leadership on the Global Priorities initiative fits directly with President Obama's call for "post-partisan"

solutions. This, combined with religious, military and NGO constituencies, gives this initiative a unique character. It should be stressed that this bipartisan alliance is especially important at a time when partisan struggles over budgets and defense policy appear likely to increase.

A nearly identical version of this resolution in 2008 had the endorsement of a diverse group of religious and secular entities.