

## **Petitioner's statement on Article 46 before the May 2025 Town Meeting**

Article 46 is a follow-up action on an article adopted by the May, 2019 Needham Town Meeting. That article asked our Federal leaders to implement the national "Back from the Brink" platform (<https://preventnuclearwar.org/our-five-policy-solutions/>), which calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by taking these measures:

- Pursue a verifiable agreement by nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals,
- Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first,
- End the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. President to launch a nuclear attack,
- Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and
- Cancel the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons.

The reason for returning to Town Meeting this year is that there are now very specific requests supporting Back from the Brink that we can make of our state and federal elected officials:

- The Massachusetts Senate has before it Resolution S.1649 (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1649>)
- The U.S House of Representatives is considering H. Res. 317 (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hres317/text>)

These resolutions call upon the US to adopt as policy the proposals described in the article passed by the May, 2019 Needham Town Meeting. In addition, the abolition of nuclear weapons has become even more crucial than it was in 2019.

The 2019 Town Meeting adopted the article on a voice vote. Similar Back from the Brink resolutions have since then been adopted by many municipalities across America, including the 3 largest cities in MA. More information about the Back from the Brink campaign can be found at: <https://preventnuclearwar.org/>

The major objection to the article in 2019 was that it dealt with national affairs, not strictly local affairs. However, the use of nuclear weapons would definitely have local impacts. There is precedent for local governments taking a stand on national issues, including Needham Town Meeting's endorsement of the Nuclear Freeze movement, which was instrumental in ending the nuclear arms race and bringing about a significant reduction of the world's arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Joe McCabe, Town Meeting Member, precinct F