

# PSR



# PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

U.S. AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR

## Fact Sheet: Investing in Cures Before Missiles Act

- The ICBM Act originated with Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA)
- Northrop Grumman was [awarded an initial \\$13.3 billion contract](#) for the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program through an unusual non-competitive bidding process that gave the Pentagon less leverage in negotiating its cost than the usual competitive-bidding process. The total acquisition cost of the GBSD, alone, is estimated to be between [\\$93 and \\$96 billion](#).
- Experts question the need for an ICBM replacement. In 2017, CBO [estimated](#) that the current Minuteman III missiles could be safely maintained and updated for \$37 billion less than the GBSD program is slated to cost just to develop and deploy.
- COVID-19 has killed more than 2 million people worldwide and over 500,000 Americans. Variant strains of the virus have emerged, [threatening the effectiveness of current vaccines](#).
- The **ICBM Act** calls for a life extension of the Minuteman III and for the redirection of funds now slated for GBSD research, development, testing, and evaluation, sending those funds instead to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to conduct or support research for the development of a universal coronavirus vaccine.
- The bill also calls for the transfer of all unobligated balances of appropriations made available for the National Nuclear Security Administration for the W87-1 warhead modification program (related to the GBSD) -- to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research and combat emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases.
- The bill prohibits funds authorized for fiscal year 2022 from being obligated or expended for the GBSD program or the W87-1 warhead modification program.
- Finally, the bill calls for an independent study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences on prolonging the life of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile to 2050, including consideration of force structure changes and non-destructive testing of missiles.