

HR 3564 “Nuclear First Strike Security Act of 2025”

Sponsors: Scott Peters (CA-50)
Cosponsors: Reps Deluzio and Ryan

Problem

The President has sole authority to authorize the United States to use nuclear weapons in their role as Commander and Chief. He or she may authorize a strike without concurrence from Congress or senior military leaders. This leaves the U.S. with minimal safeguards that protect against the ill-conceived employment of nuclear weapons by the President.

Solution

The Constitution neither defines what powers the President may exercise in their role as Commander in Chief, nor explains the extent to which Congress may influence how the President utilizes military force. This leaves space for Congress to insert itself into the decision-making process over how the country uses its nuclear weapons.

The “Nuclear First Strike Security Act of 2025” provides Congress the means to check the President’s ability to conduct a nuclear first strike without oversight. Specifically, this bill:

- Prohibits the President from launching a first-use nuclear strike without certification from the Secretary of Defense to Congressional leadership that the strike is valid and legal; and
- Creates exceptions to the aforementioned prohibition to ensure no language in the bill can be construed to interfere with the country’s ability to defend itself or allies from nuclear attack.

Contact

To learn more about or cosponsor the “The Nuclear First Strike Security Act of 2025,” please contact Adam Taylor (adam.taylor@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Peters’ office.