To prohibit the research and development, production, and deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on __________________.

A BILL

To prohibit the research and development, production, and deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hold the Low-Yield Nuclear Explosive Act” or the “Hold the LYNE Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States has an unparalleled nuclear arsenal, including 1,350 strategic nuclear warheads deployed on intercontinental ballistic missiles,
submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and strategic
bombers.

(2) A new low-yield nuclear weapon to be car-
ried on a ballistic missile submarine risks lowering
the threshold for nuclear use and increasing the
chance of miscalculation that could escalate into all-
out nuclear exchange.

(3) When launched, such a low-yield nuclear
warhead would be indistinguishable to an adversary
from the high-yield W76 and W88 submarine-
 launched warheads.

(4) On January 25, 2018, former Secretary of
State George Schultz testified before the Committee
on Armed Services of the Senate that “A nuclear
weapon is a nuclear weapon. You use a small one,
[and] then you go to a bigger one. I think nuclear
weapons are nuclear weapons and we need to draw
the line there.”.

(5) Former Senator Sam Nunn and former Sec-
retary of Energy Ernest Moniz stated in an op-ed on
February 1, 2018, that, “The most immediate pri-
ority should be to structure and posture U.S. and
Russian nuclear forces to deter nuclear use and re-
duce the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unau-
thorized launch. Against this backdrop, the current
Russian concept of ‘escalate to de-escalate’—i.e., limited nuclear use designed to create a pause in the conflict and open a pathway for a negotiated settlement on Moscow’s terms—and U.S. calls for more ‘usable’ nuclear weapons taken together make the world a vastly more dangerous place.”.

(6) The ballistic missile submarines of the United States have never carried low-yield nuclear warheads, and setting a historical precedent could undermine the unique and paramount role of ballistic-missile submarines as the assured, survivable second-strike capability of the United States to deter large-scale nuclear war.

(7) The United States should reject policies that increase the likelihood of nuclear war and weaken national security, including investments in low-yield nuclear weapons.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND DEPLOYMENT OF TRIDENT D5 LOW-YIELD NUCLEAR WARHEAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2019 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or
expended for the research and development, production, or deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL AND RESTORATION.—Section 3111 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2289) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended by such section are restored as if such section had not been enacted.