
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PLACE A MORATORIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, DEPLOYMENT, AND USE OF LETHAL AUTONOMOUS ROBOTICS AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO DO THE SAME.

1 WHEREAS, lethal autonomous robotics are robotic systems
2 that, once activated, can select and engage targets without
3 further intervention by a human operator; and
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5 WHEREAS, lethal autonomous robotics have been described as
6 the next major revolution in military technology, on par with
7 the introduction of gunpowder or nuclear weapons; and
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9 WHEREAS, a United States Air Force assessment predicted
10 that by 2030, due to growing technology, humans will be the
11 weakest component in a wide array of systems and processes; and
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13 WHEREAS, the United States has banned the use of lethal
14 force by fully autonomous weapons for ten years, with limited
15 exceptions; and
16

17 WHEREAS, use of lethal autonomous robotics removes the
18 potential for loss of human life on the deploying side and could
19 result in a lower threshold for a country's decision to engage
20 in armed conflict; and
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22 WHEREAS, the use of lethal autonomous robotics places the
23 final decision to kill a human with a robot instead of a human
24 and is a potential violation of international treaties,
25 including the Hague Convention (IV), which requires every
26 combatant to be commanded by a person; and



1 WHEREAS, it is unclear whether robots can meet the
2 requirements of international law, including the ability to
3 distinguish between civilians and combatants or assess whether
4 the likely harm to civilians during a military action would
5 exceed the military advantage gained by the conflict; and
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7 WHEREAS, accountability for deaths caused by lethal
8 autonomous robotics would be unclear, particularly in instances
9 of death of innocent civilians caused by lethal autonomous robot
10 malfunctions; and
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12 WHEREAS, nongovernmental organizations and human rights
13 groups have campaigned to ban fully autonomous weapons to
14 preempt deployment in the same way that blinding laser weapons
15 were banned; and
16

17 WHEREAS, more than one hundred leading robotics experts and
18 artificial intelligence leaders are urging the United Nations to
19 take action to prevent the development of "killer robots"
20 through a letter to the organization which warns of "a third
21 revolution in warfare"; and
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23 WHEREAS, the letter states that lethal autonomous robotic
24 technology is a Pandora's box and time is of the essence; and
25

26 WHEREAS, these leading robotics and artificial intelligence
27 experts are calling for a ban on the use of artificial
28 intelligence in managing weaponry because once developed, it
29 will permit armed conflict to be fought at a scale greater than
30 ever, and at timescales faster than humans can comprehend; and
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32 WHEREAS, the weapons can be used by despots and terrorists
33 against innocent populations and can be hacked to behave in
34 undesirable ways; and
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36 WHEREAS, experts are calling for the addition of lethal
37 autonomous weapons to the list of weapons that are banned under
38 the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons;
39 and
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41 WHEREAS, the Report of the Special Rapporteur on
42 extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions by Christof



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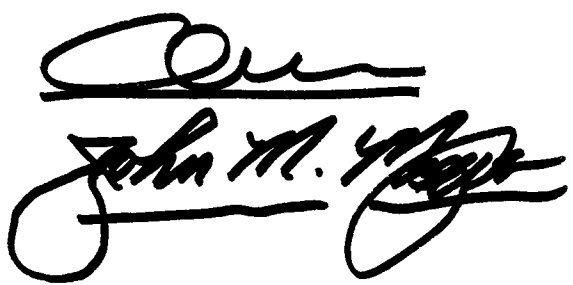
1 Heyns to the United Nations General Assembly, recommends that
 2 nations establish national moratoria on aspects of lethal
 3 autonomous robotics and that a panel articulate an international
 4 policy on the use of lethal autonomous robotics; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 7 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 8 2019, the Senate concurring, that the United States government
 9 is urged to place a moratorium on the development, production,
 10 deployment, and use of lethal autonomous robotics and is urged
 11 to encourage other nations to do the same until an
 12 internationally agreed upon framework on the future of
 13 autonomous robotics has been established; and
 14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States is urged to
 16 advocate for the addition of lethal autonomous robotics and
 17 similar weapons technology to the list of weapons banned under
 18 the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons;
 19 and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 23 United States, Vice President of the United States in the Vice
 24 President's capacity as presiding officer of the United States
 25 Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
 26 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
 27 President *Pro Tempore* of the United States Senate, Secretary of
 28 Defense, Secretary of State, United States Ambassador to the
 29 United Nations, and members of Hawaii's congressional
 30 delegation.
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OFFERED BY: 



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