
CONGRESSMAN

JAMES P. McGOVERN

THIRD DISTRICT — MASSACHUSETTS

NEWS RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF U.S. REP. JIM MCGOVERN (D-MA)

PRESS CONFERENCE ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

“As the principal sponsor in the U.S. House of Representatives of H.R. 1755, the Cluster Munition Civilian Protection Act, I want to express my appreciation and respect for the leadership of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Patrick Leahy and the many national and international organizations that are shining a light on the issue of cluster munitions. Just last week I sponsored a briefing on Capitol Hill with people from Laos and Lebanon who have been directly affected by the use of cluster munitions. From the 1960s to the present day, thousands of civilians live in peril from the remnants of past battles that used cluster munitions.

”I believe strongly that the United States can and should be an international leader in ending the terrible toll on civilian populations caused by the high failure rate of these weapons. Passage of H.R. 1755/S. 594 would establish in law the Pentagon's standard of a 99 percent functioning rate for all U.S. cluster munitions, and ensure our stockpile, export, use and procurement of cluster munitions adhered uniformly to that standard.

“There will always be those who will argue against such a change in military policy and practice, who will say this can't be done. History argues otherwise. History shows us that genuine leaders of the world say, ‘Yes, we can.’ I believe we can, and we must.”

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