

## Senators Fight Cruise Missile Funding

- [Arms Control Today](#)

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Nine Democratic senators, led by Edward Markey (Mass.), are seeking to limit development funding for a nuclear-armed, air-launched cruise missile known as the long-range standoff (LRSO) weapon that the Air Force is planning to field by 2030. The missile and its refurbished warhead reportedly will cost \$20-30 billion over 20 years to produce, Markey said in a March 8 news release. "Congress shouldn't fund dangerous new nuclear weapons designed to fight unwinnable nuclear wars," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), a co-sponsor of the legislation that would cap funding for the missile and its warhead at 2017 levels until the Trump administration submits a Nuclear Posture Review report to Congress. Air Force plans call for the procurement of about 1,000 of these missiles to replace the AGM-86B cruise missiles, which have been in use since 1986. Critics say the new weapon is not needed and its ability to carry nuclear or conventional warheads could lead to a cataclysmic error if an adversary mistakes the launch of conventional missiles for nuclear ones. "The new nuclear cruise missile is expensive, redundant, and above all, dangerous," warned Tom Collina, director of policy at the Ploughshares Fund on March 8.

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