To prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Van Hollen (for himself, Ms. Warren, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Markey) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.

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 “Nuclear SLCM Ban Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:
(1) The United States nuclear arsenal comprises approximately 3,800 nuclear warheads in the active stockpile and a force structure of long-range and short-range delivery systems, including—

(A) land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles;

(B) submarine-launched ballistic missiles that can deliver both low-yield and higher-yield nuclear warheads;

(C) long-range strategic bomber aircraft capable of carrying nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missile and nuclear gravity bombs; and

(D) short-range fighter aircraft that can deliver nuclear gravity bombs.

(2) In 2010, the United States retired the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile, or the TLAM-N, after concluding in the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review that the capability “serve[d] a redundant purpose in the U.S. nuclear stockpile”.

(3) Ten years later, in 2020, the United States initiated studies into a new nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and associated warhead, after concluding in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review that the weapon system would provide a “non-
strategic regional presence” and “an assured re-
response capability”.

(4) The United States possesses an array of nu-
clear weapons systems, including both air- and sea-
based capabilities, that provide an effective regional
deterrent presence, making the nuclear-armed sea-
launched cruise missile a redundant, unnecessary ca-
pability.

(5) Deploying nuclear-armed sea-launched
cruise missiles on attack submarines or surface ships
risks detracting from the core military missions of
such submarines and ships, such as tracking enemy
submarines, protecting United States carrier groups,
and conducting conventional strikes on priority land
targets.

(6) Stationing nuclear-armed sea-launched
cruise missiles on such submarines or ships also
risks complicating port visits and joint operations
with some allies and partners of the United States,
which in turn would reduce the operational effective-
ness of such submarines and ships and the deterrent
value of deployed nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise
missiles.

(7) A January 2019 analysis of the Congres-

sional Budget Office estimated that the projected
costs of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile program from 2019 to 2028 would total $9,000,000,000, adding additional costs and resource requirements to the United States nuclear modernization program and increasing pressure on the Navy budget as the Navy plans for increases in shipbuilding while funding the Columbia-class submarine program.

(8) The cost of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile program will be larger, as the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office did not account for costs related to integrating nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missiles on attack submarines or surface ships, nuclear weapons-specific training for Navy personnel, or storage and security for nuclear warheads.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, OR DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR-ARMED SEA-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE AND ASSOCIATED WARHEAD.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2022 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 nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its as-
associated nuclear warhead.