

A RESOLUTION supporting the State of Israel and opposing the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement which seeks to harm the State of Israel.

WHEREAS, the residents of this Commonwealth have a history of standing against anti-Semitism manifested through acts of bigotry, oppression, intimidation, violence, vandalism, arson, discrimination, and injustice; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East and there is a strong historic bond of spiritual, cultural, economic, social, business, governmental, and educational relationships between America, this Commonwealth, and the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky House of Representatives recognizes the importance of expressing its unabridged support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist, right to free trade, and the right of self-defense; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Kentucky overwhelmingly approved bipartisan resolutions in 2009, pledging its support for all people of the State of Israel to live in freedom and peace, secure from terror, and declaring Israel a blessing to all nations; and

WHEREAS, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around the world, including in the United States and the Commonwealth. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and weakening the Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in the BDS movement activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish students, negatively impacting student programming related to the State of Israel and the politics in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the BDS movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the Jewish people. Their signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies have

adopted the BDS slogan, "from the river to the sea Palestine will be free," meaning there would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and the State of Israel would cease to exist; and

WHEREAS, the BDS movement's call for academic boycotts have been denounced by many of our nation's largest academic organizations, including more than 250 university presidents, and many other leading scholars who are concerned about the campaign's challenge to academic freedom on their campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky House of Representatives finds the goals and activities of the BDS movement in this Commonwealth are harmful to its Jewish citizens, and the Jewish homeland of Israel and have a deleterious impact on the educational environment;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby declares its support for the State of Israel and its opposition to the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement to damage the State of Israel and undermine the Jewish people's right to self-determination.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives denounces the promotion of academic boycotts against free trade and markets by the BDS movement targeting Israel as well as the activities, hate speech, intimidation, and violence against Jewish students which is contributing to the denial, violation, or delegitimization of academic freedom and civil liberties on college and university campuses.

➔Section 3. The Kentucky House of Representatives reaffirms its support for the State of Israel, recognizes that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel, denounces the deadly attacks on the people of Israel, supports Israel's right to engage in lawful acts of self-defense, and opposes all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state.

➔Section 4. The Kentucky House of Representatives confirms its dedication to protecting and preserving the rights, civil liberties, and dignity of all citizens of this Commonwealth and these United States.

➔Section 5. The Kentucky House of Representatives urges local and federal law enforcement authorities to protect Jewish and Christian citizens, affirms the inalienable right of all citizens to live without fear and intimidation to practice their freedom of faith and civil liberties, and encourages the prosecution of perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.

➔Section 6. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Kentucky Congressional delegation, and the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.