

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Kentucky overwhelmingly approved
15 bipartisan resolutions in 2009 and 2016, pledging its support for all people of the State of
16 Israel to live in freedom and peace, secure from terror, and declaring Israel a blessing to
17 all nations; and

18 WHEREAS, the recent synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was a clear
19 sign of growing animosity towards the Jewish people. This terrible moment in our
20 nation's history, the deadliest attack on Jews in the history of the United States, comes
21 alongside a rising wave of anti-Semitic behavior throughout our nation and
22 Commonwealth. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the
23 main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and weakening the Jewish State; and

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

1 WHEREAS, leaders of the BDS movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as
2 the home of the Jewish people. Their signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies have
3 adopted the BDS slogan, "from the river to the sea Palestine will be free," meaning there
4 would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and the State of
5 Israel would cease to exist; and

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

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

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

26 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky House of Representatives reaffirms its support for the
27 State of Israel, recognizes that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel,

1 denounces the deadly attacks on the people of Israel, supports Israel's right to engage in
2 lawful acts of self-defense, and opposes all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a
3 sovereign state.

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

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

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