

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio (the Senate concurring):

WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Ohio have a history of standing against bigotry, oppression, discrimination, and injustice; and

WHEREAS, Ohio and Israel have a long history of friendship and are great allies in support of each other's interests; 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

WHEREAS, Ohio is committed to increasing the ties and interactions in business, government, the arts, culture, and education between the State of Ohio and the State of Israel, further strengthening the historic ties between our State and that country; and

WHEREAS, Ties between Ohio's and Israel's academic, research, business, and nonprofit communities are both robust and longstanding; and

WHEREAS, The elected representatives of Ohio recognize the importance of expressing their unabridged support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist and thrive, and their unabridged support for Israel's right of self-defense; and

WHEREAS, There are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around the world, including across the United States and in Ohio, including desecration of Jewish religious sites; and

WHEREAS, The international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement is one of the main vehicles for legitimizing anti-Semitism on campus and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, Anti-Israel activities and activities promoting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel are widespread in the State of Ohio, including on several university campuses and in other Ohio communities, and contribute to anti-Semitic and anti-Zionistic propaganda and threats to both American and Israeli Jewish students, and result in deliberate interference with the learning environment of all students; and

WHEREAS, The dramatic increase in Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish students, negatively impacting student programming of vital importance to all American students related to the State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, Leaders of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the Jewish people, and signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies have adopted the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement's theme slogan, "Palestine forever, Israel Never Ever" meaning that the State of Israel would cease to exist, falsely denying the Jewish

people's and Israel's historical connection to its ancient home in the Land of Israel, including the present day State of Israel, and Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, which were the heartland of the ancient nations of Israel and Judah; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's elected representatives who defend the inalienable right to free speech understand that the goals and activities of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaigns in Ohio are harmful to the State's relationships with Ohio's Jewish citizens, with Ohio's non-Jewish citizens who support the State of Israel and the Jewish people, and with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on the educational environment; and

WHEREAS, The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign's call for academic boycotts has been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations, over two hundred fifty university presidents, and many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom; and

WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly condemn all groups, including white nationalist, neo-Nazi, and national socialist groups, that promote hatred, religious persecution, or violence towards others; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly condemn the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its activities in Ohio for legitimizing anti-Semitism and for seeking to undermine the Jewish people's right to self-determination, which they are fulfilling in the State of Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly condemn activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the denial, violation, or delegitimization of any people's academic freedom, including, but not limited to, promotion of academic boycotts by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly consider the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its agenda inherently antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East and in the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, reaffirm our support for the State of Israel, recognize that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel, condemn all attacks on the people of Israel, support Israel's right to engage in lawful acts of self-defense, and oppose all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, reaffirm our position that the trustees, administrators, and educators at all levels in our universities in Ohio, must take an active stand against all anti-Semitic actions and intimidation taken against Jewish students on their campuses, whereby all students may feel safe, and be safe, from harm due to these pernicious activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly encourage and support the exercise of free speech and civil debate, particularly on college campuses, and further encourage university and college administrations to curb any impediments to free speech and any abridgment of free speech on campus by any individuals or groups, and urge them to take disciplinary action against all students, faculty, and administrators who engage in actions that abridge free speech on campus in

violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Chancellor of Higher Education and each of the nine members of the Ohio Board of Regents, the provosts and chairpersons of the boards of trustees of all Ohio public and private colleges and universities, and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.

Speaker _____ of the House of Representatives.

President _____ of the Senate.

Adopted _____, 20____