SJR6

172442-5

By Senator Orr

RFD:

First Read: 02-FEB-16
ENROLLED, SJR6,

DENOUNCING THE BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS (BDS) MOVEMENT.

WHEREAS, The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement is a global campaign that calls for boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel; and

WHEREAS, Alabama and Israel share a commitment to deeply-held common values from the history of each shaped greatly through the influence of Biblical faith, in addition to many nationally shared values as the only democratic ally of the United States in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, Alabama recognizes and support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of World War II, when the axis powers were not only waging world war against America and Europe, but also seeking the mass murder and systematic extermination of the Jewish people, Alabama led the nation in an official call for the establishment of the Jewish state and homeland in Act 144 (SJR4), 1943 Regular Session, a unanimous joint resolution signed by the Governor on June 10, 1943; and
WHEREAS, the resurgence of global anti-Semitism is currently at its highest point since the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric is growing louder and bolder with increasing international hostility toward Israel and the Jewish people, including international leaders publicly calling the Holocaust a myth, stating their intent to wipe Israel off the map and denying any historical Jewish connection to the Temple Mount, Jerusalem, or the Holy Land; and

WHEREAS, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement seeks to further isolate and delegitimize Israel and Jewish people worldwide in an effort to cripple Israel through economic, cultural, and political pressure; and

WHEREAS, many founders and leaders of the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement deny Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and even advocate for the elimination of the Jewish state; and

WHEREAS, verbal attacks against the Jewish people and the demonizing of Israel and supporters of Israel foster intimidation and promotes violence, not only globally, but also in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is concerned by anti-Israel activities in this state and other communities
nationwide within certain university campuses, academic and professional associations, and the cultural sector; and

WHEREAS, attempts to delegitimize Israel's existence through an international campaign of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) is increasingly promoted on U.S. college and university campuses; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased animosity, intimidation, and violence on university campuses; and

WHEREAS, calls for academic boycotts against Israeli academic institutions have been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations, over 250 university presidents, and leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's elected representatives who defend the inalienable right to free speech understand that the goals and activities of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement in this state are harmful to the State's relationships with Alabama's Jewish citizens, our friend and ally Israel and have a deleterious impact on the academic and educational environment; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we unequivocally denounce and
reject the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and any furtherance of this movement in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of Alabama rejects any activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the delegitimization of the sovereignty of Israel as a Jewish State including, but not limited to, promotion of economic, cultural, and academic boycotts against Israel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of Alabama considers the international BDS 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of Alabama re-affirms its support for the State of Israel as a Jewish State, recognizes that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel, condemns all attacks on the people of Israel, supports Israel's right to engage in lawful acts of self-defense, opposes all attempts to economically and politically isolate Israel within the international arena, and opposes efforts to assault the legitimacy of Israel as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is directed that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Alabama Delegation to the United States
Congress, to the Governors of all the United States of America, and to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for transmission to all the proper authorities in the State of Israel.
President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR6

Senate 02-FEB-16

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

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House of Representatives

Adopted: 09-FEB-16

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By: Senator Orr