

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE  
4 RESOLUTION 1037

By: Wesselhoft

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution condemning the international Boycott,  
8 Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and any of its  
9 activities in Oklahoma that undermine the Jewish  
10 people's right to self-determination; condemning  
11 certain activities; reaffirming support for the State  
12 of Israel; and directing distribution.

13 WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Oklahoma have a history of  
14 standing against bigotry, oppression, discrimination and injustice;  
15 and

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

18 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives in their 50th,  
19 51st, 52nd, 53rd and 54th Legislature has unanimously commended  
20 Israel on her contributions to Oklahoma, the United States and the  
21 world; and

22 WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle  
23 East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the  
24 Middle East; and

1       WHEREAS, agreement with the State of Israel, resulting in  
2 business, governmental, art, cultural, educational and university  
3 activities between the State of Oklahoma and the State of Israel,  
4 would further strengthen the historic ties between our state and  
5 that country; and

6       WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the  
7 importance of expressing its unabridged support for the Jewish  
8 people and the State of Israel's right to exist and right of self-  
9 defense; and

10       WHEREAS, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around  
11 the world, including across the United States, reflected in official  
12 hate crime statistics; and

13       WHEREAS, the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions  
14 Movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and  
15 advocating the elimination of the Jewish State; and

16       WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in Boycott, Divestment, and  
17 Sanctions campaign activities on college campuses around the country  
18 has resulted in increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish  
19 students, negatively impacting student organizations related to the  
20 State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

21       WHEREAS, leaders of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions  
22 Movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the  
23 Jewish people; and

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1       WHEREAS, signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies in the  
2 United States have adopted the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions  
3 slogan, "from the river to the sea Palestine will be free," meaning  
4 there would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the  
5 Mediterranean Sea, that the State of Israel would cease to exist;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives defends the  
8 inalienable right to free speech and understands that the goals and  
9 activities of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaigns in the  
10 United States are harmful to the State's relationship with  
11 Oklahoma's Jewish citizens and with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and  
12 have a deleterious impact on the educational environment; and

13       WHEREAS, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign's call  
14 for academic boycotts have been condemned by many of our nation's  
15 largest academic associations, over 250 university presidents, and  
16 many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle  
17 of academic freedom.

18       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
19 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

20       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns the  
21 international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and any of  
22 its activities in Oklahoma for seeking to undermine the Jewish  
23 people's right to self-determination, which they are fulfilling in  
24 the State of Israel.

1        THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns activities  
2 that contribute directly or indirectly to the denial, violation or  
3 delegitimization of any people's academic freedom, including, but  
4 not limited to, promotion of academic boycotts by the Boycott,  
5 Divestment, and Sanctions Movement against Israel.

6        THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives reaffirms their  
7 support for the State of Israel, recognizes that the Jewish people  
8 are indigenous to the land of Israel, condemns all attacks on the  
9 people of Israel, supports Israel's right to engage in lawful acts  
10 of self-defense, and opposes all attempts to deny the legitimacy of  
11 Israel as a sovereign state.

12        THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the President  
13 of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United  
14 States Senate, and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for  
15 distribution to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.

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