

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Condemning the growing anti-Semitism in certain countries and extending an invitation to Jewish families from around the world to South Dakota.

WHEREAS, Judaism as a faith has been in existence for over three thousand years with over eleven million people practicing worldwide; and

WHEREAS, people of the Jewish faith have recently suffered inexcusable anti-Semitic attacks, including a tragic attack when a gunman walked into a kosher market in Paris, taking hostages, killing four people, and sending shock and fear through the Jewish community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Paris attack, numerous Jewish grave stones have been desecrated, many Jewish stores have been attacked, and immeasurable amounts of Jewish graffiti has been scrawled all over Paris; and

WHEREAS, growing anti-Semitism is not exclusive to France, with a violent attack on a Jewish film director and a Jewish security guard in Copenhagen, Denmark, and over one thousand one hundred anti-Semitic incidences recorded last year in Britain alone; and

WHEREAS, these anti-Semitic aggressions have caused fear and terror to a degree that has caused a mass exodus of Jewish immigrants leaving France, with around 2,000 Jews leaving France every year until 2013, when it grew to 3,400 Jews, and doubling in 2014 when over 7,000 Jews left the country; and

WHEREAS, South Dakotans believe no person of any faith should have to fear for their well-being due to his or her beliefs, and the free exercise of religion is an inalienable human right; and

WHEREAS, the first Jews to settle in South Dakota found opportunity with the United States Homestead Act, seeking the freedoms of unsettled grasslands; and

WHEREAS, South Dakotans know the value of practicing a faith, support strong convictions of freedom of religion, and appreciate a diversity of faith in the state; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota offers an acceptance of faith, friendly people, and a safe and welcoming place to raise a family; and

WHEREAS, a flourishing Jewish community in the state will increase diversity, bring about worldly perspectives, and allow South Dakotans to develop meaningful and long-lasting

relationships with people of a different faith:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninetieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that this Legislature, and the good citizens of South Dakota, denounce and condemn the growing anti-Semitism in many European and Middle-Eastern countries and encourage the swift and attentive action of the leaders of each respective country in dealing with and eliminating the dangerous discrimination Jews face every single day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that South Dakota extends a warm welcome to both French Jews, and those of the Jewish faith experiencing discrimination or danger around the world, to join the good people of South Dakota and enjoy a safe, welcomed, and prosperous life in this beautiful state.

Adopted by the Senate,  
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

February 26, 2015  
March 3, 2015

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Matt Michels  
President of the Senate

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Kay Johnson  
Secretary of the Senate

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Dean Wink  
Speaker of the House

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Arlene Kvislen  
Chief Clerk of the House