
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, Senn, Taylor, Farrell, Harmsworth, Goodman, McCaslin, Pollet, Volz, Macri, Springer, McBride, Rodne, Kagi, Slatter, Clibborn, Graves, Haler, and Hargrove

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE UNITED STATES
5 SECRETARY OF STATE, AND TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AND TO THE UNITED
6 NATIONS, AND TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
9 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, The Legislature and the people of the State of
11 Washington condemn the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS)
12 movement against Israel and the increasing incidents of antisemitism
13 around the world; and

14 WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Washington have a history
15 of standing against bigotry, oppression, discrimination, and
16 injustice; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of Washington, the United States, and the
18 nation of Israel have a long history of friendship and are great
19 allies in support of each other's interests; and

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

1 WHEREAS, America and the State of Israel have much in common in
2 business, governmental, artistic, cultural, and educational interests
3 further strengthening the historic ties between our nation and the
4 State of Israel; and

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

9 WHEREAS, There are increasing incidents of antisemitism around
10 the world, including across the United States and in Washington
11 indicated in official hate crime statistics; and

12 WHEREAS, The international boycott, divestment, and sanctions
13 movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading antisemitism and
14 advocating the elimination of the Jewish state; and

15 WHEREAS, Activities promoting boycott, divestment, and sanctions
16 against Israel have increased in the State of Washington, primarily
17 on university campuses and in other communities, and contribute to
18 antisemitic and antizionistic propaganda; and

19 WHEREAS, The dramatic increase in boycott, divestment, and
20 sanctions campaign activities on college campuses around the country
21 has resulted in increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish
22 students, negatively impacting student programming related to the
23 State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

24 WHEREAS, Leaders of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions
25 movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the
26 Jewish people; and

27 WHEREAS, Signs, speeches, and other messaging at anti-Israel
28 rallies have adopted the boycott, divestment, and sanctions slogan,
29 "From the river to the sea Palestine will be free," meaning there
30 would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean
31 Sea, that the State of Israel would cease to exist; and

32 WHEREAS, Washington's elected representatives who defend the
33 inalienable right to free speech understand that the goals and
34 activities of boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaigns are
35 harmful to this nation's relationships with its Jewish citizens and
36 with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on
37 the educational environment; and

38 WHEREAS, The boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign's call
39 for academic boycotts have been condemned by many educators as a
40 violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom; and

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the longstanding, vibrant,
2 and mutually beneficial political, economic, and cultural ties
3 between America and Israel, built on a foundation of shared,
4 classical-liberal, representative-democratic, republican values; and

5 WHEREAS, The Legislature condemns the international boycott,
6 divestment, and sanctions movement and its activities in the United
7 States and the State of Washington for seeking to undermine the
8 Jewish people's right to exist, defend themselves, and determine
9 their own future, which rights they are actively pursuing and
10 accomplishing today in the State of Israel; and

11 WHEREAS, The Legislature condemns activities that contribute
12 directly or indirectly to the denial, violation, or delegitimization
13 of any person's academic freedom, including, but not limited to, the
14 promotion of academic boycotts by the boycott, divestment, and
15 sanctions movement against Israel; and

16 WHEREAS, The Legislature considers the international boycott,
17 divestment, and sanctions movement and its agenda inherently
18 antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice,
19 equality, democracy, and human rights for all persons in the Middle
20 East; and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislature rejects the differential treatment of
22 Israel, including the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Legislature stands firmly against any position or
25 movement that promotes or encourages any form of hatred, hostility,
26 prejudice, racism, or intolerance in any way; and

27 WHEREAS, The Legislature reaffirms its support for the State of
28 Israel, recognizes that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land
29 of Israel, condemns all attacks on the people of Israel, supports
30 Israel's right to engage in lawful acts of self-defense, and opposes
31 all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
33 recipients of this memorial oppose or continue to oppose the boycott,
34 divestment, and sanctions movement.

35 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this memorial be immediately
36 transmitted to the Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United
37 States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of
38 Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States
39 Senate, the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. for transmission to
40 the proper authorities in the State of Israel, the Secretary-General

1 of the United Nations, the Governor of the State of Washington, and
2 the Secretary of State of the State of Washington.

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