

1 SJR6  
2 172442-3  
3 By Senator Orr  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-16

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

10  
11 WHEREAS, The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions  
12 (BDS) Movement is a global campaign that calls for boycott,  
13 divestment, and sanctions against Israel; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, in the midst of World War II, when the axis  
22 powers were not only waging world war against America and  
23 Europe, but also seeking the mass murder and systematic  
24 extermination of the Jewish people, Alabama led the nation in  
25 an official call for the establishment of the Jewish state and  
26 homeland in Act 144 (SJR4), 1943 Regular Session, a unanimous  
27 joint resolution signed by the Governor on June 10, 1943; and

1           WHEREAS, the resurgence of global anti-Semitism is  
2 currently at its highest point since the end of World War II;  
3 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the  
27 State of Alabama rejects any activities that contribute

1 directly or indirectly to the delegitimization of the  
2 sovereignty of Israel as a Jewish State including, but not  
3 limited to, promotion of economic, cultural, and academic  
4 boycotts against Israel.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the  
6 State of Alabama considers the international BDS Movement and  
7 its agenda inherently antithetical and deeply damaging to the  
8 causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy, and human  
9 rights for all peoples in the Middle East.

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

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