
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 370 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, COHEN, THOMAS, MILLARD, DRISCOLL, MURT,
TALLMAN, O'BRIEN, SCHLOSSBERG, JAMES, DIGIROLAMO, TOEPEL,
BRIGGS, FRANKEL, KAUFFMAN, GOODMAN, PASHINSKI, GROVE,
HEFFLEY, WATSON, BENNINGHOFF AND BRADFORD, JUNE 5, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 5, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
2 movement and its activities in this Commonwealth for seeking
3 to undermine the Jewish people's right to self-determination,
4 which they are fulfilling in the State of Israel.

5 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth have a history of
6 standing against bigotry, oppression, discrimination and
7 injustice; and

8 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth and Israel have a long history of
9 friendship and are great allies in support of each other's
10 interests; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Israel, the only democracy in the
12 Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United
13 States in the Middle East; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a strong history of a cultural, economic,
15 social, business, governmental and educational relationship
16 between this Commonwealth and the State of Israel; and

17 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the importance of
18 expressing their unabridged support for the Jewish people and

1 the State of Israel's right to exist and the right of self-
2 defense; and

3 WHEREAS, The first attempt to boycott Jewish interests in the
4 Pennsylvania Colony occurred in 1662 and was rejected when Sir
5 Robert Carr, in 1664, assumed command of the Delaware in the
6 name of the English crown; and

7 WHEREAS, The instructions to Sir Robert Carr were that "all
8 people should enjoy the liberty of their conscience," and the
9 proposed boycott did not occur; and

10 WHEREAS, American Jews sided overwhelmingly with the American
11 Revolution, including, Haim Solomon, a Philadelphia citizen who
12 was a major financier of the American Revolution; and

13 WHEREAS, Based on official hate crime statistics, there are
14 increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around the world,
15 including in the United States and this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, The international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions
17 (BDS) movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-
18 Semitism and advocating the elimination of the Jewish state; and

19 WHEREAS, Activities promoting BDS against Israel have
20 increased in this Commonwealth, including on some college and
21 university campuses, and contribute to anti-Semitism and anti-
22 Zionist propaganda; and

23 WHEREAS, The dramatic increase in BDS movement campaign
24 activities on college campuses around the country has resulted
25 in increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish students,
26 negatively impacting student programming related to the State of
27 Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

28 WHEREAS, Leaders of the BDS movement say their goal is to
29 eliminate Israel as the home of the Jewish people; and

30 WHEREAS, Signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies in this

1 Commonwealth have adopted the BDS slogan, "from the river to the
2 sea Palestine will be free," meaning there would be no Israel
3 between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and the
4 State of Israel would cease to exist; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly understands that the goals and
6 activities of BDS campaigns in this Commonwealth are harmful to
7 this Commonwealth's Jewish citizens and to the Jewish homeland,
8 Israel, and have a deleterious impact on the educational
9 environment; and

10 WHEREAS, The BDS campaign's call for academic boycotts have
11 been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic
12 associations, more than 250 university presidents, and many
13 other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle
14 of academic freedom; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the
16 international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and
17 its activities in this Commonwealth for seeking to undermine the
18 Jewish people's right to self-determination, which they are
19 fulfilling in the State of Israel; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn
21 activities which contribute directly or indirectly to the
22 denial, violation or delegitimization of any people's academic
23 freedom, including the promotion of academic boycotts by the BDS
24 movement against Israel; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives consider the
26 international BDS movement and its agenda inherently
27 antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace,
28 justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples
29 in the Middle East; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives reaffirm its

1 support for the State of Israel, recognize that the Jewish
2 people are indigenous to the land of Israel, condemn all attacks
3 on the people of Israel, support Israel's right to engage in
4 lawful acts of self-defense and oppose all attempts to deny the
5 legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the President of the United States, the Congress of the United
8 States and the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC for transmission
9 to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.