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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, Rodne, Young, Koster, Hayes, Klippert, Haler, Irwin, Manweller, Van Werven, Harmsworth, Holy, Volz, McDonald, Schmick, MacEwen, McCaslin, Buys, and Condotta

Read first time 01/17/17. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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  
34 boycott, 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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