

By: Zedler

H.C.R. No. 112

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Israel, the only democracy in the
2 Middle East, is a great friend and ally of the United States of
3 America, and Texas and Israel have a long history of friendship in
4 support of each other's interests; and

5 WHEREAS, Texas has signed multiple cooperative agreements
6 with Israel that have increased our connections and interactions in
7 the areas of business, government, art, culture, and education, and
8 elected Texas officials have been making mission trips to Israel
9 since 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite previously expressed support from the Lone
11 Star State, there have been increasing incidents of anti-Semitism
12 around the world and in Texas, and the international Boycott,
13 Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the main
14 vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and for advocating the
15 elimination of the Jewish state; and

16 WHEREAS, The preponderance of anti-Israel activities and the
17 promotion of the BDS movement, in Texas communities in general and
18 on university campuses specifically, have resulted in threats
19 against Jewish students and have deliberately interfered with the
20 learning environment of all students, particularly in the negative
21 impact of these activities on student programming related to the
22 State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

23 WHEREAS, The call of the BDS campaign for academic boycotts
24 has been condemned as a violation of the bedrock principle of

1 academic freedom by many of our nation's largest academic
2 associations, hundreds of university presidents, and a number of
3 other leading scholars; and

4 WHEREAS, Elected representatives of Texas defend the
5 inalienable right to free speech and understand that the goals and
6 activities of BDS campaigns in Texas are harmful to the state's
7 relationships with its Jewish citizens and with Israel and have a
8 deleterious impact on the educational environment; now, therefore,
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby condemn the international Boycott, Divestment, and
12 Sanctions movement and its activities to spread anti-Semitism in
13 Texas; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That activities that contribute, directly or
15 indirectly, to the denial, violation, or delegitimization of any
16 people's academic freedom, including, but not limited to, promotion
17 of academic boycotts by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
18 movement against Israel, be denounced; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the international Boycott, Divestment, and
20 Sanctions movement and its agenda be considered inherently
21 antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice,
22 equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the Middle
23 East; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That support for the State of Israel be reaffirmed
25 and that the Jewish people be recognized as indigenous to the land
26 of Israel and that they be supported in their right to engage in
27 lawful acts of self-defense.