Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1037

By: Wesselhoft, Strohm, Billy, McDaniel (Randy), Cox, Bennett, Joyner, Scott, Jordan, Fisher, Faught, Walker, Morrissette, Kern, Newell, Enns, Ownbey, Cockroft, Lepak, Sanders, Wood, Coody (Ann), Coody (Jeff) and Dunlap

A Resolution condemning the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and any of its activities in Oklahoma that undermine the Jewish people's right to self-determination; condemning certain activities; reaffirming support for the State of Israel; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Oklahoma have a history of standing against bigotry, oppression, discrimination and injustice; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma and Israel have a long history of friendship and are great allies in support of each other's interests; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives in their 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd and 54th Legislature has unanimously commended Israel on her contributions to Oklahoma, the United States and the world; and

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

WHEREAS, agreement with the State of Israel, resulting in business, governmental, art, cultural, educational and university activities between the State of Oklahoma and the State of Israel,

would further strengthen the historic ties between our state and that country; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the importance of expressing its unabridged support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist and right of self-defense; and

WHEREAS, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around the world, including across the United States, reflected in official hate crime statistics; and

WHEREAS, the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish students, negatively impacting student organizations related to the State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies in the United States have adopted the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions slogan, "from the river to the sea Palestine will be free," meaning there would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, that the State of Israel would cease to exist; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives defends the inalienable right to free speech and understands that the goals and activities of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaigns in the United States are harmful to the State's relationship with Oklahoma's Jewish citizens and with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and have a deleterious impact on the educational environment; and

WHEREAS, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign's call for academic boycotts have been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations, over 250 university presidents, and many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and any of its activities in Oklahoma for seeking to undermine the Jewish people's right to self-determination, which they are fulfilling in the State of Israel.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the denial, violation or delegitimization of any people's academic freedom, including, but not limited to, promotion of academic boycotts by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement against Israel.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives reaffirms their support for the State of Israel, recognizes that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel, condemns all attacks on the people of Israel, supports Israel's right to engage in lawful acts of self-defense, and opposes all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a sovereign state.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for distribution to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 18th day of February, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 22nd day of February, 20 16, at 2:38 o'clock P. M.

By: Chris Benge