

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

4 HOUSE

5 RESOLUTION 1035

 By: Wesselhoft

6
7 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives in their 50th,
20 51st, 52nd, 53rd, and 54th Legislature has unanimously commended
21 Israel on her contributions to Oklahoma, the United States, and the
22 world; and

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

4 WHEREAS, agreement with the State of Israel, resulting in
5 business, governmental, art, cultural, educational, and university
6 activities between the State of Oklahoma and the State of Israel,
7 would further strengthen the historic ties between our state and
8 that country; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns the
24 international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and any of

1 its activities in Oklahoma for seeking to undermine the Jewish
2 people's right to self-determination, which they are fulfilling in
3 the State of Israel.

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

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

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

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20 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.
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