

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing support for the State of
Israel.

WHEREAS, Hamas is a United States-designated terrorist
organization whose charter calls for the destruction of the
State of Israel, and

WHEREAS, Hamas continues to reject the Quartet Principles,
the set of three requirements laid out by the diplomatic entity
composed of the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, and
the United States, which are to accept previous Israeli-
Palestinian agreements, to renounce violence, and to recognize
Israel's right to exist, and

WHEREAS, innocent civilians are indiscriminately targeted
by Hamas rocket attacks, and Hamas has killed hundreds of
Israelis and dozens of Americans in rocket attacks and suicide
bombings, and

WHEREAS, since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas
and other terrorist groups have fired thousands of rockets at
Israel, and since June 2014, Hamas has fired approximately 3,500
rockets at Israel, and

WHEREAS, Hamas's weapons arsenal includes approximately
12,000 rockets that vary in range, and

WHEREAS, Hamas has also built a network of tunnels under
Israel's borders through which the organization has attempted to
carry out terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians, and

WHEREAS, Iran has long provided material support to Hamas
and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, including assistance that has
enabled these terrorist organizations to produce longer-range

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30 rockets capable of striking Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and

31 WHEREAS, in order to help Israel defend itself, the United
32 States Congress approved the fiscal year 2014 Consolidated
33 Appropriations Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on
34 January 17, 2014, which provides \$235 million to Israel for the
35 research, development, and production of Iron Dome, and

36 WHEREAS, during the most recent rocket attacks from Gaza,
37 Iron Dome has successfully intercepted dozens of rockets that
38 were launched against Israeli population centers, and

39 WHEREAS, the United States and Israel have also cooperated
40 on other missile defense projects, including David's Sling and
41 the Arrow Weapon System, which are designed to thwart a diverse
42 range of threats, including short-range missiles and rockets
43 fired by non-state actors such as Hamas, and

44 WHEREAS, 5 million Israelis are currently living under the
45 threat of rocket attacks from Gaza, NOW, THEREFORE,

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47 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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49 That the Florida Senate reaffirms its support for Israel's
50 right to defend its citizens and to ensure the survival of the
51 State of Israel and that the Florida Senate condemns the
52 unprovoked rocket attacks aimed at Israel and calls on Hamas to
53 immediately cease all rocket and other attacks against Israel.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
55 presented to the Consulate General of Israel to Florida and
56 Puerto Rico in Miami as a tangible token of the sentiments
57 expressed in this resolution.