



HM 1091

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House Memorial No. _____

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
expressing solidarity with Israel in its fight against
terrorism.

WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of terrorism since September
11, 2001, has harmed the economies of Florida and the United
States; damaging tourism and travel among the states and
creating a negative economic atmosphere hurting business and
producing job losses, and

WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of worldwide terrorism at home
and abroad has forced local, state, and federal resources in the
United States to be diverted from other critical domestic
programs for the purpose of enhancing public security, and

WHEREAS, the United States and Israel are now engaged in a
common struggle against terrorism and are on the front-lines of
a conflict thrust upon them against their will, and

WHEREAS, hundreds of innocent Israelis and Palestinians
have died tragically in violence since September 2000, and

WHEREAS, Palestinian organizations are engaging in an
organized, systematic, and deliberate campaign of terror aimed
at inflicting as many casualties as possible on the Israeli
population, including through the use of suicide terrorist
attacks, and

WHEREAS, Israel has lost nearly 700 innocent lives, which
as a percentage of population is commensurate with America
losing over 30,000 lives in the terrorist attacks on New York
and Washington on September 11, 2001, and

WHEREAS, Yasser Arafat and members of the Palestinian
leaders have failed to abide by their commitments to nonviolence



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31 made in the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles (the Oslo
32 Accord) of September 1993, including their pledges to adhere
33 strictly to a peaceful resolution of the conflict; to resolve
34 all outstanding issues relating to permanent status through
35 negotiations; to renounce the use of terrorism and other acts of
36 violence; and to assume responsibility over all PLO elements and
37 personnel in order to assure their compliance with the
38 commitment to nonviolence, prevent violence, and discipline
39 violators, and

40 WHEREAS, the continued terrorism and incitement committed,
41 supported, and coordinated by official arms of the Palestinian
42 Authority are a direct violation of these commitments, and

43 WHEREAS, forces directly under Yasser Arafat's control,
44 particularly, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which is part of
45 Arafat's Fatah organization and has been designated a Foreign
46 Terrorist Organization by the United States Government, have
47 murdered scores of innocent Israelis, and

48 WHEREAS, Yasser Arafat was directly involved in the
49 Palestinian Authority's thwarted attempt to obtain 50 tons of
50 offensive weapons shipped from Iran in the Karine-A, an effort
51 that irrefutably proved Arafat's embrace of the use and
52 escalation of violence, and

53 WHEREAS, documents from the offices of the Palestinian
54 Authority demonstrate the crucial financial support the
55 Palestinian Authority continues to provide for terrorist acts,
56 including suicide bombers, and

57 WHEREAS, the ongoing violence has hurt the economics of
58 both Israel and the Palestinian territories, damaging tourism in
59 both regions, thereby creating a negative economic atmosphere
60 hurting business and producing job losses, and



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61 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush declared at a joint
62 session of Congress on September 20, 2001, that "from this day
63 forward any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism
64 will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime," and

65 WHEREAS, President Bush recently stated that he "fully
66 understands Israel's need to defend herself" and that he
67 "respects" the fact that Israelis have "seen a wave of suicide
68 bombers coming to the heart of their cities and killing innocent
69 people," and

70 WHEREAS, President Bush, in his speech of April 4, 2002,
71 stated that "the situation in which Arafat finds himself today
72 is largely of his own making," that Arafat "missed his
73 opportunities, and thereby betrayed the hopes of the people he's
74 supposed to lead," and that "given Arafat's failure, the Israeli
75 government feels it must strike at terrorist networks that are
76 killing its citizens," and

77 WHEREAS, Israel's military operations are an effort to
78 defend itself against the unspeakable horrors of ongoing
79 terrorism and are aimed only at dismantling the terrorist
80 infrastructure in the Palestinian areas, an obligation Arafat
81 himself undertook but failed to carry out, and

82 WHEREAS, Israel has made clear its intention to withdraw
83 from Palestinian areas and has already begun to do so, NOW,
84 THEREFORE,

85
86 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

87
88 That the Florida Legislature:

89 (1) Stands in solidarity with Israel as it takes necessary
90 steps to provide security to its people by dismantling the



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91 terrorist infrastructure in the Palestinian areas;

92 (2) Remains committed to Israel's right to self-defense
93 and supports additional United States assistance to help Israel
94 defend itself;

95 (3) Condemns Palestinian suicide bombings;

96 (4) Condemns the ongoing support and coordination of
97 terror by Yasser Arafat and other members of the Palestinian
98 leadership;

99 (5) Demands that the Palestinian Authority at last fulfill
100 its commitment to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in the
101 Palestinian areas, including any such infrastructure associated
102 with PLO and Palestinian Authority entities tied directly to
103 Yasser Arafat;

104 (6) Is gravely concerned that Arafat's actions are not
105 those of a viable partner for peace;

106 (7) Urges all Arab states to declare their unqualified
107 opposition to all forms of terrorism, particularly suicide
108 bombing;

109 (8) Commends the President for his leadership in
110 addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, particularly the
111 efforts of the Administration to engage countries throughout the
112 region to condemn and prevent terrorism and to prevent a
113 widening of the conflict;

114 (9) Urges all parties in the region to vigorously pursue
115 efforts to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in
116 the Middle East; and

117 (10) Will work as an elected body to promote tourism,
118 economic trade, and cultural exchange with the State of Israel,
119 keeping relations healthy now and into the future for the
120 benefit of Florida and Israel.



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121 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
122 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
123 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
124 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
125 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.