

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution condemning the Boycott, Divestment and  
3 Sanctions movement and the increasing incidence of  
4 acts of anti-Semitism.

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6 WHEREAS, Floridians have, as a matter of public policy,  
7 long opposed bigotry, oppression, discrimination, and injustice,  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Florida and Israel have enjoyed a long history of  
10 friendship and are great allies, each supporting the best  
11 interests of the other, and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the  
13 Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United  
14 States in the region, and

15 WHEREAS, the elected representatives of the state recognize  
16 the importance of expressing Florida's unwavering support for  
17 the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist and  
18 right to self-defense, and

19 WHEREAS, the incidence of acts of anti-Semitism is  
20 increasing throughout the world, including in the United States  
21 and in Florida, and is reflected in official hate crime  
22 statistics, and

23 WHEREAS, the international Boycott, Divestment and  
24 Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the main vehicles for  
25 spreading anti-Semitic perspectives and advocating the  
26 elimination of the Jewish State, and

27 WHEREAS, the level of activities promoting BDS against  
28 Israel has increased in this state, in communities and on  
29 college campuses, and contributes to the promotion of anti-  
30 Semitic and anti-Zionist propaganda, and

31 WHEREAS, the increase in BDS campaign activities on college  
32 campuses nationwide has resulted in an increase in

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33 confrontations with, intimidation of, and discrimination against  
34 Jewish students, and

35 WHEREAS, leaders of the BDS movement express that their  
36 goal is to eliminate Israel as the national home of the Jewish  
37 people, and

38 WHEREAS, the BDS campaign's call for academic and cultural  
39 boycotts has been condemned by many of our nation's largest  
40 academic associations, more than 250 university presidents, and  
41 many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock  
42 principle of academic freedom, NOW, THEREFORE,

43

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

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46 That the Florida Senate condemns the international Boycott,  
47 Divestment and Sanctions movement against the State of Israel  
48 and calls upon the governmental institutions of this state to  
49 denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be  
51 presented to the President of the United States, the President  
52 and Secretary of the United States Senate, and the Speaker and  
53 Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to the  
54 Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the  
55 proper authorities of the State of Israel as a tangible token of  
56 the sentiments expressed herein.