

1 A RESOLUTION supporting the State of Israel and opposing the international
2 Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement which seeks to harm the State of Israel.

3 WHEREAS, the residents of this Commonwealth have a history of standing against
4 anti-Semitism manifested through acts of bigotry, oppression, intimidation, violence,
5 vandalism, arson, discrimination, and injustice; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is the
7 greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East and there is a strong
8 historic bond of spiritual, cultural, economic, social, business, governmental, and
9 educational relationships between America, this Commonwealth, and the State of Israel;
10 and

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

14 WHEREAS, throughout the years, the General Assembly of Kentucky
15 overwhelmingly approved bipartisan resolutions pledging its support for all people of the
16 State of Israel to live in freedom and peace, secure from terror, and declaring Israel a
17 blessing to all nations; and

18 WHEREAS, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the
19 main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and weakening the Jewish State; and

20 WHEREAS, leaders of the BDS movement say their goal is to eliminate Israel as
21 the home of the Jewish people. Their signs and messaging at anti-Israel rallies have
22 adopted the BDS slogan, "from the river to the sea Palestine will be free," meaning there
23 would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and the State of
24 Israel would cease to exist; and

25 WHEREAS, the BDS movement's call for academic boycotts have been denounced
26 by many of our nation's largest academic organizations, including more than 250
27 university presidents, and many other leading scholars who are concerned about the

1 campaign's challenge to academic freedom on their campuses; and

2 WHEREAS, the Kentucky House of Representatives finds that the goals and
3 activities of the BDS movement in this Commonwealth are harmful to its Jewish citizens
4 and the Jewish homeland of Israel, and have a deleterious impact on the educational
5 environment;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

7 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
8 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

9 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby declares its support for the
10 State of Israel and its opposition to the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
11 (BDS) movement to damage the State of Israel and undermine the Jewish people's right to
12 self-determination.

13 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives denounces the promotion of academic
14 boycotts against free trade and markets by the BDS movement targeting Israel as well as
15 the activities, hate speech, intimidation, and violence against Jewish students which is
16 contributing to the denial, violation, or delegitimization of academic freedom and civil
17 liberties on college and university campuses.

18 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky House of Representatives reaffirms its support for the
19 State of Israel, recognizes that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel,
20 denounces the deadly attacks on the people of Israel, supports Israel's right to engage in
21 lawful acts of self-defense, and opposes all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a
22 sovereign state.

23 ➔Section 4. The Kentucky House of Representatives confirms its dedication to
24 protecting and preserving the rights, civil liberties, and dignity of all citizens of this
25 Commonwealth and these United States.

26 ➔Section 5. The Kentucky House of Representatives urges local and federal law
27 enforcement authorities to protect Jewish and Christian citizens, affirms the inalienable

1 right of all citizens to live without fear and intimidation to practice their freedom of faith
2 and civil liberties, and encourages the prosecution of perpetrators to the fullest extent of
3 the law.

4 ➔Section 6. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
5 copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Kentucky Congressional
6 delegation, and the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the
7 proper authorities in the State of Israel.