

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 246

Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott,
Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. WAGNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Science, Space, and Technology, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the
Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement
targeting Israel.

Whereas the democratic, Jewish State of Israel is a key ally
and strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas since Israel's founding in 1948, Congress has repeatedly expressed our Nation's unwavering commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state;

Whereas American policy has long sought to bring peace to the Middle East and recognized that both the Israeli and

Palestinian people should be able to live in safe and sovereign states, free from fear and violence, with mutual recognition;

Whereas support for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has long-standing bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come through direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the support of countries in the region and around the world;

Whereas it is a hallmark of American democracy for citizens to petition the United States Government in favor of or against United States foreign policy;

Whereas cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially in the context of rising anti-Semitism, authoritarianism and security problems in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa;

Whereas the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel is a campaign that does not favor a two-state solution and that seeks to exclude the State of Israel and the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world;

Whereas the BDS Movement targets not only the Israeli government but also Israeli academic, cultural, and civil society institutions, as well as individual Israeli citizens of all political persuasions, religions, and ethnicities, and in some cases even Jews of other nationalities who support Israel;

Whereas the BDS Movement does not recognize, and many of its supporters explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination;

Whereas a founder of the BDS Movement has denied the right of the Jewish people in their homeland, saying, “We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.”;

Whereas university-based BDS efforts violate the core goals of the university and global cultural development, which thrive on free and open exchange and debate; and

Whereas the BDS Movement promotes principles of collective guilt, mass punishment, and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards peace and a two-state solution: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment,
3 and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting
4 Israel, including efforts to target United
5 States companies that are engaged in commercial
6 activities that are legal under United States law, and
7 all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel;

8 (2) affirms that the Global Boycott, Divestment,
9 and Sanctions Movement undermines the possibility
10 for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian
11 conflict by demanding concessions of one
12 party alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject
13 negotiations in favor of international pressure;

1 (3) urges Israelis and Palestinians to return to
2 direct negotiations as the only way to achieve an end
3 to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

4 (4) supports the full implementation of the
5 United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of
6 2014 (Public Law 113–296; 128 Stat. 4075) and
7 new efforts to enhance government-wide, coordinated
8 United States-Israel scientific and technological co-
9 operation in civilian areas, such as with respect to
10 energy, water, agriculture, alternative fuel tech-
11 nology, civilian space technology, and security, in
12 order to counter the effects of actions to boycott, di-
13 vest from, or sanction Israel; and

14 (5) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated
15 solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting
16 in two states—a democratic Jewish State of Israel,
17 and a viable, democratic Palestinian state—living
18 side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recogni-
19 tion.

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