

By Senator Sobel

33-01287-14

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing opposition to the academic boycott of Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning, and support of academic and political freedom and collaboration with Israeli universities.

WHEREAS, Israel is the only country in the Middle East that is a democracy, and

WHEREAS, Israel is a strong ally of the United States, and this alliance is based on shared values and interests, and invaluable cooperation in military technology, cyber security, medicine, biotechnology, agriculture, bilateral trade and commerce, as well as educational, research, and cultural exchanges, and

WHEREAS, about 11 percent of the population of undergraduate students at Israeli universities is Arab, while Jews account for less than 1 percent of the population of undergraduate students at Arab universities, and

WHEREAS, in many parts of the Arab world, women are actively dissuaded from pursuing education, but, in Israel, they are encouraged to attend school, and

WHEREAS, some groups have proposed an academic boycott as a means of isolating Israel in order to force a change in Israel's policies toward the Palestinians, and

WHEREAS, the academic boycott of Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning is antithetical to the principles of academic freedom and to the free and open exchange of ideas, and

WHEREAS, academic freedom is under attack by forces that

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30 claim to be progressive but that actually subvert the values
31 they claim to represent, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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35 That the Florida Senate stands with Israeli universities
36 and institutions of higher learning, and stands against the
37 biased and hypocritical academic boycott of Israeli
38 universities, and

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate encourages
40 and welcomes bipartisan support in recognition of Israel's right
41 to academic freedom and collaboration with institutions around
42 the world.