



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4212/1
CMH:klm

2023 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 19

November 7, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives MURPHY, S. JOHNSON, ARMSTRONG, BODDEN, BRANDTJEN, DITTRICH, DONOVAN, GOEBEN, GUNDRUM, MAXEY, MICHALSKI, O'CONNOR, RETTINGER and SCHRAA. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and
2 condemning the increasing incidents of anti-Semitism.

3 Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin have a history of standing against bigotry,
4 oppression, discrimination, and injustice; and

5 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin and Israel have a long history of friendship and
6 are great allies in support of each other's interests; and

7 Whereas, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is the
8 greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East; and

9 Whereas, Wisconsin is committed to increasing the ties and interactions in
10 business, government, the arts, culture, and education between the State of
11 Wisconsin and the State of Israel, further strengthening the historic ties between our
12 state and that country; and

13 Whereas, ties between Wisconsin's and Israel's academic, research, business,
14 and nonprofit communities are both robust and longstanding; and

1 Whereas, the elected representatives of Wisconsin recognize the importance of
2 expressing their unabridged support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel's
3 right to exist and thrive, and their unabridged support for Israel's right of
4 self-defense; and

5 Whereas, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around the world,
6 including across the United States and in Wisconsin, including the desecration of
7 Jewish religious sites; and

8 Whereas, the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement is
9 one of the main vehicles for legitimizing anti-Semitism on campus and advocating
10 for the elimination of the Jewish State; and

11 Whereas, anti-Israel activities and activities promoting the Boycott,
12 Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel are widespread in the State of
13 Wisconsin, including on several university campuses and in other Wisconsin
14 communities, and contribute to anti-Semitic and anti-Zionistic propaganda and
15 threats to both American and Israeli Jewish students, and result in deliberate
16 interference with the learning environment of all students; and

17 Whereas, the dramatic increase in Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
18 campaign activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in
19 increased animosity and intimidation against Jewish students, negatively
20 impacting student programming of vital importance to all American students related
21 to the State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

22 Whereas, leaders of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement say
23 their goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the Jewish people, and signs and
24 messaging at anti-Israel rallies have adopted the Boycott, Divestment, and
25 Sanctions movement's theme slogan, "Palestine forever, Israel Never Ever," meaning

1 that the State of Israel would cease to exist, falsely denying the Jewish people's and
2 Israel's historical connection to its ancient home in the Land of Israel, including the
3 present day State of Israel and Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, which were the
4 heartland of the ancient nations of Israel and Judah; and

5 Whereas, Wisconsin's elected representatives who defend the inalienable right
6 to free speech understand that the goals and activities of Boycott, Divestment, and
7 Sanctions campaigns in Wisconsin are harmful to the state's relationships with
8 Wisconsin's Jewish citizens, with Wisconsin's non-Jewish citizens who support the
9 State of Israel and the Jewish people, and with the Jewish homeland, Israel, and
10 have a deleterious impact on the educational environment; and

11 Whereas, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign's call for academic
12 boycotts has been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations,
13 over 250 university presidents, and many other leading scholars as a violation of the
14 bedrock principle of academic freedom; now therefore be it

15 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Assembly condemn the
16 international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its activities in
17 Wisconsin for legitimizing anti-Semitism and for seeking to undermine the Jewish
18 people's right to self-determination, which they are fulfilling in the State of Israel;
19 and, be it further

20 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Assembly condemn activities that
21 contribute directly or indirectly to the denial, violation, or delegitimization of any
22 people's academic freedom, including, but not limited to, promotion of academic
23 boycotts by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel; and,
24 be it further

1 **Resolved, That** the members of the Assembly consider the international
2 Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its agenda inherently
3 antithetical and deeply damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy,
4 and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East and in the United States; and,
5 be it further

6 **Resolved, That** the members of the Assembly reaffirm our support for the
7 State of Israel, recognize that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land of Israel,
8 condemn all attacks on the people of Israel, support Israel's right to engage in lawful
9 acts of self-defense, and oppose all attempts to deny the legitimacy of Israel as a
10 sovereign state; and, be it further

11 **Resolved, That** the members of the Assembly reaffirm our position that the
12 trustees, administrators, and educators at all levels in our universities in Wisconsin
13 must take an active stand against all anti-Semitic actions and intimidation taken
14 against Jewish students on their campuses, whereby all students may feel safe, and
15 be safe, from harm due to these pernicious activities; and, be it further

16 **Resolved, That** the members of the Assembly encourage and support the
17 exercise of free speech and civil debate, particularly on college campuses, and further
18 encourage university and college administrations to curb any impediments to free
19 speech and any abridgment of free speech on campus by any individuals or groups,
20 and urge them to take disciplinary action against all students, faculty, and
21 administrators who engage in actions that abridge free speech on campus in
22 violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and, be
23 it further

24 **Resolved, That** the Assembly Chief Clerk transmit authenticated copies of
25 this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the

1 U.S. House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the U.S. Senate, the
2 Chancellor of Higher Education and each member of the Wisconsin Board of Regents,
3 the provosts and chairpersons of the boards of trustees of all Wisconsin public and
4 private colleges and universities, and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for
5 transmission to the proper authorities in the State of Israel.

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(END)