

House Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Members Halderman and ~~Bonnie~~

~~Lowenthal~~ *Bonnie Lowenthal*

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Achadjian, Beall, Block, Blumenfield, Butler, Cook, Fong, Furutani, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Hagman, Mansoor, Miller, Monning, Portantino, and Williams*)

August 6, 2012

House Resolution No. 35—Relative to anti-Semitism.

1 WHEREAS, The frequency and severity of incidents of
2 contemporary global anti-Semitism are increasing according to
3 reports by representatives from nations around the world, including
4 the United States Department of State in 2008, the Organization
5 for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2004, and the
6 Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism in 2009;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, On July 20, 2009, the United States Senate
9 unanimously approved a resolution that unequivocally condemns
10 all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to rationalize
11 anti-Jewish hatred or attacks as a justifiable expression of
12 disaffection or frustration over political events in the Middle East
13 or elsewhere, and decries the comparison of Jews to Nazis
14 perpetrating the Holocaust or genocide as a pernicious form of
15 anti-Semitism; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State, the United
17 Kingdom's All-Party Parliamentary Group Against ~~Anti-semitism~~

1 *Antisemitism*, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation
2 in Europe have adopted or endorsed the European Union Agency
3 for Fundamental Rights' working definition of anti-Semitism,
4 which notes that in context certain language or behavior demonizes
5 and delegitimizes Israel or attacks Israel with classic anti-Semitic
6 stereotypes, such as denying the Jewish people their right to
7 self-determination, applying double standards by requiring of Israel
8 a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic
9 nation, drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli police to that
10 of the Nazis, and accusing the Jewish people, or Israel, of inventing
11 or exaggerating the Holocaust; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Commission on Civil Rights
13 reported in 2006 that anti-Semitism exists on some college
14 campuses and is often cloaked as criticism of Israel, and
15 recommended that colleges and universities ensure that students
16 are protected from actions that could create a hostile anti-Semitic
17 environment; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the last decade some Jewish students on
19 public postsecondary education institution campuses in California
20 have experienced the following: (1) physical aggression,
21 harassment, and intimidation by members of student or community
22 groups in student-sponsored protests and rallies held on campus;
23 (2) speakers, films, and exhibits sponsored by student, faculty, and
24 community groups that engage in anti-Semitic discourse or use
25 anti-Semitic imagery and language to falsely describe Israel,
26 Zionists, and Jews, including that Israel is a racist, apartheid, or
27 Nazi state, that Israel is guilty of heinous crimes against humanity
28 such as ethnic cleansing and genocide, that the Jewish state should
29 be destroyed, that violence against Jews is justified, that Jews
30 exaggerate the Holocaust as a tool of Zionist propaganda, and that
31 Jews in America wield excessive power over American foreign
32 policy; (3) swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti in residential
33 halls, public areas on campus, and Hillel houses; (4) student- and
34 faculty-sponsored boycott, divestment, and sanction campaigns
35 against Israel that are a means of demonizing Israel and seek to
36 harm the Jewish state; (5) actions of student groups that encourage
37 support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah
38 and openly advocate terrorism against Israel and the Jewish people;
39 and (6) suppression and disruption of free speech that present
40 Israel's point of view; and

1 WHEREAS, California public postsecondary educational
2 institutions are admired throughout the world for their excellence
3 and diversity, and it is important that they provide continued
4 leadership in the fight against anti-Semitism; and

5 WHEREAS, While the response by California public
6 postsecondary educational institutions to incidents of hate and
7 intimidation, including anti-Semitism, with actions designed to
8 make their campuses safer and more inclusive of diverse students,
9 faculty, and staff have increased, the problem requires additional
10 serious attention on both a campuswide and systemwide basis; and

11 ~~WHEREAS, The Legislature supports the actions already taken~~
12 ~~by the President of Assembly commends the initial actions taken~~
13 ~~by the University of California (UC) and urges the leadership to~~
14 ~~continue to take action to address anti-Semitism on its campuses~~
15 ~~while staying within the constraints of the First Amendment to the~~
16 ~~United States Constitution; and~~

17 ~~WHEREAS, The Legislature supports the following examples~~
18 ~~of the UC leadership: such as: (1) refusal by the UC Board of~~
19 ~~Regents and the President of UC to consider divesture from~~
20 ~~companies doing business with Israel; (2) strengthening UC's~~
21 ~~systemwide policies prohibiting student conduct motivated by~~
22 ~~bias, including religious bias; (3) implementation of a campus~~
23 ~~climate reporting system allowing any member of a UC campus~~
24 ~~community to report incidents of intolerance or bias and~~
25 ~~development of a comprehensive UC systemwide campus climate~~
26 ~~assessment; (4) the formation of an Advisory Council on Campus~~
27 ~~Climate, Culture and Inclusion whose members have conducted~~
28 ~~in-depth visits with Jewish students and groups on UC campuses~~
29 ~~to better understand their concerns and challenges and report back~~
30 ~~to the President of the UC; and (5) immediate statements by UC~~
31 ~~leaders strongly condemning specific acts of intolerance or bias~~
32 ~~when they occur; and~~

33 ~~WHEREAS, The Assembly urges both the University of~~
34 ~~California and the California State University to take additional~~
35 ~~actions to confront anti-Semitism on its campuses, with due respect~~
36 ~~to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and~~

37 WHEREAS, While these actions are important steps, strong
38 leadership from the top remains an important priority so that no
39 administrator, faculty, or student group can be in any doubt that
40 anti-Semitic activity will not be tolerated in the classroom or on

1 campus, and that no public resources will be allowed to be used
2 for anti-Semitic or any intolerant agitation; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
4 ~~Legislature~~ *Assembly* unequivocally condemns all forms of
5 intolerance, including anti-Semitism, on public postsecondary
6 educational institution campuses in California; and be it further
7 *Resolved, That the*~~Legislature~~ *Assembly* recognizes recent
8 actions by officials of public postsecondary educational institutions
9 in California and calls upon those institutions to increase their
10 efforts to swiftly and unequivocally condemn acts of anti-Semitism
11 on their campuses and to utilize existing resources, such as the
12 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' working
13 definition of anti-Semitism, to help guide campus discussion about,
14 and promote, as appropriate, educational programs for combating
15 anti-Semitism on their campuses; and be it further
16 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
17 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*

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