

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 28, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 23, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 35

**Introduced by Assembly Members Halderman and
Bonnie Lowenthal**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Beall, Block, Blumenfield, Butler, Cook, Fong, Furutani, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Hagman, Mansoor, Miller, Monning, Portantino, ~~and Williams~~ *Williams, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Bill Berryhill, Bonilla, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fuentes, Beth Gaines, Garrick, Gorell, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Ma, Mendoza, Mitchell, Morrell, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, and Wagner*)

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

1 all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to rationalize
2 anti-Jewish hatred or attacks as a justifiable expression of
3 disaffection or frustration over political events in the Middle East
4 or elsewhere, and decries the comparison of Jews to Nazis
5 perpetrating the Holocaust or genocide as a pernicious form of
6 anti-Semitism; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State, the United
8 Kingdom's All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism,
9 and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have
10 adopted or endorsed the European Union Agency for Fundamental
11 Rights' working definition of anti-Semitism, which notes that in
12 context certain language or behavior demonizes and delegitimizes
13 Israel or attacks Israel with classic anti-Semitic stereotypes, such
14 as denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination,
15 applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not
16 expected or demanded of any other democratic nation, drawing
17 comparisons of contemporary Israeli police to that of the Nazis,
18 and accusing the Jewish people, or Israel, of inventing or
19 exaggerating the Holocaust; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Commission on Civil Rights
21 reported in 2006 that anti-Semitism exists on some college
22 campuses and is often cloaked as criticism of Israel, and
23 recommended that colleges and universities ensure that students
24 are protected from actions that could create a hostile anti-Semitic
25 environment; and

26 WHEREAS, Over the last decade some Jewish students on
27 public postsecondary education institution campuses in California
28 have experienced the following: (1) physical aggression,
29 harassment, and intimidation by members of student or community
30 groups in student-sponsored protests and rallies held on campus;
31 (2) speakers, films, and exhibits sponsored by student, faculty, and
32 community groups that engage in anti-Semitic discourse or use
33 anti-Semitic imagery and language to falsely describe Israel,
34 Zionists, and Jews, including that Israel is a racist, apartheid, or
35 Nazi state, that Israel is guilty of heinous crimes against humanity
36 such as ethnic cleansing and genocide, that the Jewish state should
37 be destroyed, that violence against Jews is justified, that Jews
38 exaggerate the Holocaust as a tool of Zionist propaganda, and that
39 Jews in America wield excessive power over American foreign
40 policy; (3) swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti in residential

1 halls, public areas on campus, and Hillel houses; (4) student- and
2 faculty-sponsored boycott, divestment, and sanction campaigns
3 against Israel that are a means of demonizing Israel and seek to
4 harm the Jewish state; (5) actions of student groups that encourage
5 support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah
6 and openly advocate terrorism against Israel and the Jewish people;
7 and (6) suppression and disruption of free speech that present
8 Israel's point of view; and

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, While these actions are important steps, strong
 2 leadership from the top remains an important priority so that no
 3 administrator, faculty, or student group can be in any doubt that
 4 anti-Semitic activity will not be tolerated in the classroom or on
 5 campus, and that no public resources will be allowed to be used
 6 for anti-Semitic or any intolerant agitation; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
 8 Assembly unequivocally condemns all forms of intolerance,
 9 including anti-Semitism, on public postsecondary educational
 10 institution campuses in California; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Assembly recognizes recent actions by
 12 officials of public postsecondary educational institutions in
 13 California and calls upon those institutions to increase their efforts
 14 to swiftly and unequivocally condemn acts of anti-Semitism on
 15 their campuses and to utilize existing resources, such as the
 16 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights’ working
 17 definition of anti-Semitism, to help guide campus discussion about,
 18 and promote, as appropriate, educational programs for combating
 19 anti-Semitism on their campuses; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
 21 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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24 **CORRECTIONS:**

25 **Text—Page 3.**

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