

House Resolution

No. 35

**Introduced by Assembly Members Halderman and Bonnie
Lowenthal
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Galgiani, Gatto, 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,
18 and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have
19 adopted or endorsed the European Union Agency for Fundamental
20 Rights’ working definition of anti-Semitism, which notes that in
21 context certain language or behavior demonizes and delegitimizes

1 Israel or attacks Israel with classic anti-Semitic stereotypes, such
2 as denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination,
3 applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not
4 expected or demanded of any other democratic nation, drawing
5 comparisons of contemporary Israeli police to that of the Nazis,
6 and accusing the Jewish people, or Israel, of inventing or
7 exaggerating the Holocaust; and

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports the actions already taken
8 by the President of the University of California (UC) and urges
9 the leadership to continue to take action to address anti-Semitism
10 on its campuses while staying within the constraints of the First
11 Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

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

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

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
35 Legislature unequivocally condemns all forms of intolerance,
36 including anti-Semitism, on public postsecondary educational
37 institution campuses in California; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes recent actions by
39 officials of public postsecondary educational institutions in
40 California and calls upon those institutions to increase their efforts

1 to swiftly and unequivocally condemn acts of anti-Semitism on
2 their campuses and to utilize existing resources, such as the
3 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' working
4 definition of anti-Semitism, to help guide campus discussion about,
5 and promote, as appropriate, educational programs for combating
6 anti-Semitism on their campuses; and be it further
7 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
8 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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