

2015-K705

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION rejecting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement

WHEREAS, The State of Israel and the United States are allies sharing a common bond rooted in the values of freedom, democracy, and equal rights; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York and Israel have a long history of friendship based on economic, cultural, intellectual and political cooperation and exchange; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers recognize and support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) is a global campaign that calls for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is concerned by anti-Israel activities in the state of New York and other communities nationwide within certain university campuses, academic and professionals associations, and the cultural sector; and

WHEREAS, Calls for academic boycotts against Israeli academic institutions have been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations, over 250 university presidents, and leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom; and

WHEREAS, The BDS movement's policies and tactics negate and undermine the vibrant debate regarding the Israel-Palestinian relationship, which is based on a recognition of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers defend the inalienable right to free speech recognize that punitive economic measures targeting Israel undermine dialogue, economic cooperation and political reconciliation between

Israelis and Palestinians, which is the necessary foundation for a lasting peace in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers affirm that both Israelis and Palestinians have the right to live in their own safe and secure states, free from fear and violence, with mutual recognition, trade, and normalization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to reject the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its activities in New York for seeking to undermine efforts to achieve a negotiated two-state solution and the right of Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to reject any activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the delegitimization of the sovereignty of Israel as a Jewish State including, but not limited to, promotion of economic, cultural, and academic boycotts against Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body is concerned that the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its agenda are damaging to the causes of peace, justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all peoples in the Middle East; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body reaffirms their support for the State of Israel as a Jewish State, oppose all attempts to economically and politically isolate Israel within the international arena, and oppose efforts to assault the legitimacy of Israel as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people.