



HR0508

LRB103 35307 ECR 65355 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Both Hamas and Hezbollah are recognized by the  
3 U.S. Department of State as Foreign Terrorist Organizations;  
4 and

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WHEREAS, On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a surprise  
6 attack to deliberately target Israeli civilians, which  
7 included the killing and abduction of men, women, children,  
8 and the elderly; and

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10 WHEREAS, Hamas' stated goal is the total destruction of  
the State of Israel and the murder of its Jewish citizens; and

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12 WHEREAS, A disturbing number of student organizations at  
13 institutions of higher education have placed blame solely upon  
14 the State of Israel for the attack and have expressed support  
15 for the terrorist actions of Hamas through the glorification  
of violence and the usage of anti-Semitic rhetoric; and

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17 WHEREAS, On October 9, 2023, the national leadership of  
18 Students for Justice in Palestine declared a "day of  
19 resistance", calling on student chapters across the United  
20 States to demonstrate by "not just slogans and rallies, but  
21 armed confrontation with oppressors" and, following this  
announcement, many chapters issued pro-Hamas statements; and

1           WHEREAS, On October 10, 2023, a Stanford University  
2 lecturer targeted Jewish students during a class on  
3 colonialism, justifying the actions of Hamas terrorists by  
4 calling them "freedom fighters" and asking Jewish students to  
5 identify themselves and stand in the corner to illustrate what  
6 "Jews were doing to Palestinians"; and

7           WHEREAS, On October 15, 2023, in a complete disregard for  
8 humanity, a Cornell University professor grabbed the  
9 microphone at a campus rally and said that "Hamas has  
10 challenged the monopoly of violence"; in reference to Hamas'  
11 terror attack on Israel, he also said "It was exhilarating",  
12 "It was energizing", and "I was exhilarated"; and

13           WHEREAS, On October 22, 2023, the Brandeis University  
14 student government voted down a simple resolution condemning  
15 Hamas and calling on the immediate release of all hostages  
16 back to their families unharmed; and

17           WHEREAS, On October 24, 2023, George Washington University  
18 students, at a vigil to support Hamas' surprise attack,  
19 prominently projected signs on the walls of the university's  
20 library, including "Glory to our Martyrs"; and

21           WHEREAS, On October 25, 2023, a walkout and protests took

1 place at DePaul University in Chicago featuring over 100  
2 students, where the chant "Death to Zionism" was heard and  
3 flags for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a  
4 Syria-based terrorist group, were seen; and

5 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois chapter of Students  
6 for Justice in Palestine shared a video showing what appears  
7 to be a Hamas terrorist filming himself inside of the home of  
8 an Israeli family during the October 7th attack; and

9 WHEREAS, Many administrations of institutions of higher  
10 education do not follow the practice of institutional  
11 neutrality and frequently speak out on public issues but have  
12 failed to speak out clearly after Hamas' October 7th attack,  
13 exposing their lack of regard for their Jewish and pro-Israel  
14 students; and

15 WHEREAS, The glorification of violence and the usage of  
16 anti-Semitic rhetoric creates a hostile learning and working  
17 environment for Jewish students, faculty, and staff;  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we condemn the support of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other  
22 terrorist organizations at institutions of higher education,

1 which may lead to the creation of a hostile environment for  
2 Jewish students, faculty, and staff; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That we call on campus administrators to condemn  
4 all forms of anti-Semitism on college campuses and to ensure  
5 Jewish students, faculty, and guests can exercise the same  
6 free speech rights as are guaranteed to all other students,  
7 faculty, and guests without intimidation; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That we urge the enforcement of State and  
9 federal civil rights laws to protect Jewish students from  
10 anti-Semitism; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That we offer our sympathy and compassion to  
12 families and individuals suffering from the current  
13 Israel-Hamas conflict; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 delivered to the presidents of each four-year public and  
16 private institution of higher education in Illinois.