

# SR-3

Recognizing and supporting the State of Israel for its status as the only democracy in the Middle East, its contributions to American interests abroad, and reiterating the importance of our Nation supporting Israel.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. MacKay of Vermont submitted the following resolution;

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# RESOLUTION

Recognizing and supporting the State of Israel for its status as the only democracy in the Middle East, its contributions to American interests abroad, and reiterating the importance of our Nation supporting Israel.

Whereas the State of Israel was founded as a Jewish nation that builds on the over 3,000 years of continuous Jewish presence in the land of the modern state;

Whereas the United States was the first nation to recognize the sovereign, democratic State of Israel in 1948;

Whereas the world is obligated to accept the State of Israel's right to exist in response to the six million Jewish people that were slaughtered during the Holocaust;

Whereas across partisan lines, Congress has repeatedly reaffirmed our Nation's commitment to Israel's security;

Whereas the State of Israel shares our Nation's moral and democratic values of a pluralistic and

democratic political system; protects freedom of speech, association, religion, and the press; holds fair and open elections; maintains the rule of law; and contains an independent judiciary, among other democratic practices; and is our Nation's only ally in the Middle East to do so;

Whereas as the only democracy in the Middle East, the State of Israel offers stability, representation, and legal protection to minority groups not afforded in any other country in the region to minorities;

Whereas continued mutual respect, support, and cooperation between the two countries is critical in light of growing antisemitism, authoritarianism, and threats to democracy across the globe;

Whereas Israel offers strategic contributions to the United States in the fields of cyber security, military weaponry, counterterrorism, and intelligence;

Whereas despite containing only 2 percent of the population in the Middle East and North Africa region, the State of Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the region and represents 90 percent of foreign direct investment into our Nation from the region;

Whereas bilateral ties with Israel maximize United States security and economic gain, maintain stability in the Middle East region, and promote support for democracy across the globe;

Whereas the State of Israel has embraced opportunities for peace in the Middle East that other nations and parties have rejected;

Whereas any party truly desiring peace in the Middle East must recognize the State of Israel as legitimate;

Whereas any party delegitimizing the State of Israel and denying its right to exist is opposed to our Nation's interests in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States continues to regard Israel as a trustworthy and strong ally and an important strategic, economic, and political partner; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate-

(1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement that targets and delegitimizes Israel; (2) opposes all efforts at the domestic and international level to delegitimize Israel as

antithetical to our Nation's interests; (3) encourages the fair and equal treatment of Israel in all international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court; (4) urges all United States allies and all governments around the world that truly desire peace to recognize the State of Israel; (5) encourages the President to continue to uphold and improve long standing positive relations between our Nation and Israel and to encourage other countries to do the same; (6) supports Israel's right as a sovereign state to self-defense against military and terrorist threats; (7) reaffirms the beneficial cooperation and shared values between the United States and Israel that necessitate our Nation's support of Israel; (8) commits to further cooperation between the two countries; (9) affirms that the United States-Israel relationship creates immeasurable benefits to both democracies, supports freedom globally, and advances United States interests; (10) expresses support for the President to explore new, mutually beneficial agreements with Israel in areas such as medicine, agriculture, cybersecurity, defense technology, and clean energy; (11) reiterates its support for a negotiated peace in the Middle East that involves the only democratic ally to our Nation in the region: Israel.