



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-038

BY SENATOR(S) Grossman, Anderson, Bacon, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Groff, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson, Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, May R., McElhany, Mitchell, Owen, Sandoval, Shaffer, Spence, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Teck, Tochtrop, Tupa, Veiga, Wiens, Williams, and Windels; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Clapp, Balmer, Benefield, Berens, Borodkin, Boyd, Brophy, Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Curry, Decker, Frangas, Gallegos, Garcia, Green, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Judd, Kerr, King, Knoedler, Larson, Lindstrom, Liston, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, Massey, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, Merrifield, Paccione, Penry, Ragsdale, Riesberg, Romanoff, Rose, Schultheis, Solano, Soper, Stafford, Stengel, Sullivan, Todd, Vigil, Weissmann, Welker, White, and Witwer.

CONCERNING A REAFFIRMATION BY THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STRONG BONDS CONNECTING THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND AN EXPRESSION BY THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM.

WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British mandate of Palestine and, by that vote, created the state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of the state of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, The United States government recognized the state of Israel just minutes after its declaration of independence and, at that time, established full diplomatic relations with the nascent state; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the state of Israel as a modern

homeland for the Jewish people followed the extermination of more than six million European Jews during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, Since its establishment fifty-seven years ago, the Israeli people have built a modern nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, cultural, and intellectual life while confronting immense pressures and burdens associated with war, terrorism, ostracism from much of the international community, and economic boycotts; and

WHEREAS, In spite of this severe degree of adversity confronting them since 1948, including the War of Independence, the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, and the terrorist attacks of the two Intifadas, the people of the state of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic and democratic political system that guarantees fundamental freedoms of speech and of the press, free, fair, and open elections, and respect for the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, At great financial and social cost, Israel has absorbed several millions of immigrants from many nations around the world and has made great strides in fully integrating these immigrants into Israeli society; and

WHEREAS, For over half a century, the people of the United States and the people of the state of Israel have created and maintained a special relationship based upon mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and the bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, The bonds connecting the United States and Israel include increased economic ties between the two nations, particularly increased trade between Colorado and Israel as evidenced by the following facts: In 2003, Colorado exported approximately \$38 million worth of goods to Israel; total Colorado exports to Israel have exceeded \$250 million since 1991; in 2003, Israel ranked as Colorado's 21st leading trade partner; and collaboration between Colorado-based and Israeli business concerns is taking place in, among other things, the areas of advanced technology, telecommunications, and health care; and

WHEREAS, The bonds connecting the United States and Israel also include greater collaboration between scientific researchers in both nations, including researchers in Colorado and Israel, and researchers in Colorado

and Israel are collaborating on scientific projects involving, among other things, atmospheric science, applied chemistry and physics, medicine, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, The United States also has benefited from the exchange of technology and expertise from Israel in the area of homeland security, providing invaluable benefits to our nation in combating and responding to terrorism; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly of the state of Colorado, hereby reaffirm the strong bonds that have connected the people of the United States and the people of the state of Israel together through turbulent times for more than half a century.

(2) That we commend the people of the state of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a democratic and pluralistic society in the wake of almost unrelieved adversity spanning the entirety of the nation's existence.

(3) That we express empathy with the people of the state of Israel as they endure a daily struggle against terrorism and violence and support efforts to bring security to the Jewish and democratic state of Israel.

(4) That we express outrage against, and in the strongest possible terms condemn, all acts of terror perpetrated against the Israeli people with the intent and effect of murdering Israeli civilians, including women and children.

(5) That we support the brave efforts of the government and people of Israel in pursuing peace by way of negotiation.

(6) That we applaud the government of Israel's difficult and painful decision to disengage from Gaza and the northern section of the West Bank in order to advance peace negotiations.

(7) That we reaffirm the commitment of the American people to a just, lasting, and secure peace for the people of the state of Israel and all of the peoples of the Middle East.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, His Excellency Daniel Ayalon, the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

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