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SCR-35 Anti-Semitism. (2015-2016)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35

CHAPTER 129

Relative to Anti-Semitism.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 22, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 35, Stone. Anti-Semitism.

This measure would urge each University of California campus to adopt a resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and racism, and would condemn any act of anti-Semitism at all publicly funded schools in the State of California.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The United States Department of State defines anti-Semitism as “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”; and

WHEREAS, There is clear evidence of increasing and alarming incidents and expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, From sea to shining sea one can witness the proliferation of anti-Semitic activity; and

WHEREAS, In February of 2015, the California Legislature's Jewish Caucus held a press conference addressing anti-Semitic acts and in the same week an estimated 500 people gathered on the steps of the State Capitol to protest the recent rise in anti-Semitic acts occurring across the nation, including the display of the Nazi swastika symbol superimposed onto an American flag that was hung in the front of a private home in a Sacramento neighborhood, which tarnished the reputation of the Golden State; and

WHEREAS, Swastikas and other anti-Semitic sentiments have increased in recent months on college campuses across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the kinds of recorded anti-Semitic acts committed in the United States and around the world included murders; violent attacks and death threats against Jews; arson, graffiti, and property desecration; and murders at Jewish cemeteries, places of worship, schools, and community events; and

WHEREAS, These types of anti-Semitic acts also extended to soccer stadiums, the Internet, editorial cartoons, and the use of Nazi salutes, leading many Jewish individuals to conceal their religious and ethnic identity; and

WHEREAS, In April of 2014, the United States Department of State released the International Religious Freedom Report recognizing that anti-Semitism continues to be internationally prevalent; and

WHEREAS, The governments of France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, the four countries where the majority of anti-Semitic incidents have occurred in Europe, have strongly condemned anti-Semitism as unacceptable in European society and have all made clear statements that such attacks on their Jewish communities are intolerable; and

WHEREAS, The State of California actively promotes tolerance to all faiths and religions; and

WHEREAS, The United States government has played an essential role in counteracting the resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide and has consistently supported efforts to address the rise in anti-Semitism through its bilateral relationships and participation in international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Organization of American States; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature joins with people everywhere in unequivocally condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby urges each University of California campus to adopt a resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and racism, including Islamophobia; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature condemns any act of anti-Semitism at all publicly funded schools in the State of California in order to promote tolerance and acceptance of all religious beliefs in accordance with the rights afforded to each person by the Founding Fathers of this nation and the authors of the United States Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That nothing in this resolution is intended to diminish the rights of anyone, including students, to freely engage in any speech or other activity protected by the United States Constitution, including that which is critical or supportive of the policies of any country; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.