2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 103


Relating to: condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions 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 Wisconsin and Israel have a long history of friendship based on economic, cultural, intellectual, and political cooperation and exchange; and

Whereas, the elected representatives of Wisconsin recognize and support Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state; and

Whereas, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement is one of the main vehicles advocating for policies leading to the dissolution of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and has sought to take over social, political, religious, academic, cultural, and economic platforms to isolate Israel within the international community; 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 many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom; and

Whereas, Wisconsin’s elected representatives who defend the inalienable right to free speech recognize that punitive economic measures targeting Israel do not contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of economic cooperation and political reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians which is the necessary foundation for a lasting peace in the Middle East; and

Whereas, Wisconsin’s elected representatives affirm that both Israelis and Palestinians have the right to live in their own safe and secure states, free from fear and violence and economic coercion, with mutual recognition, trade, and normalization; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature condemns the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its activities in Wisconsin 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 the Wisconsin legislature considers the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and its agenda inherently antithetical and deeply 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 the Wisconsin legislature reaffirms its support for the State of Israel and opposes all attempts to economically and politically isolate Israel within the international arena, including, but not limited to, promotion of economic,
cultural, and academic boycotts. This body opposes all efforts to assault the
legitimacy of Israel as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people.

(END)