February 1, 2016 – Introduced by Senators DARLING, HARRIS DODD, HANSEN, KAPENGA, C. LARSON, LASEE and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives RIEMER, KOOYENGA, BERCEAU, CZAJA, DUCHOW, JACQUE, JOHNSON, KNODL, MACCO, A. OTT, QUINN, ROHRKASTE, SUBECK, TAUCHEN, TITTL, VORPAGEL, ZEPNICK and BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

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
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 senate, the assembly 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
deploy 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)