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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition British Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish state and a Arab state, a decision welcomed by Jewish leadership and rejected by the Arab world; and

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WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel, and the United States government established full diplomatic relations after Israel's first election in 1949; and

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WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern state of Israel is directly linked to the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the land of Israel 3,000 years ago, with the city of Jerusalem as its capital both then and now; and

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WHEREAS, For over 2,000 years, Jews living in other parts of the world maintained a profound spiritual and emotional connection to the Land of Israel, and there has been continuous Jewish presence in the land comprising the modern state of Israel; and

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WHEREAS, The establishment of the modern state of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people followed the destruction of

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1 much of European Jewry during the Holocaust; and

2 WHEREAS, Since its establishment 70 years ago, the modern
3 State of Israel has rebuilt the nation, forged a new and
4 dynamic society, and created a thriving economic, political,
5 cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy burdens of
6 war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and economic
7 boycotts against the people of Israel; and

8 WHEREAS, The people of Israel, in the spirit of Israel's
9 Declaration of Independence, have established a vibrant,
10 pluralistic, democratic political system, which includes
11 freedom of speech, association, and religion, a vigorously free
12 press, free, fair, and open elections, the rule of law, a fully
13 independent judiciary, and other democratic principles and
14 practices; and

15 WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the world's leading
16 universities; and

17 WHEREAS, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial
18 economy, is among the world's leaders of the high-tech
19 industry, and is at the forefront of research and development
20 in the fields of renewable energy sources and medicine; and

21 WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search

1 and rescue teams, mobile hospitals, and other emergency
2 supplies, to help victims of disasters around the world; and

3 WHEREAS, Israel has taken in millions of Jews from
4 countries throughout the world and sought to fully integrate
5 them into Israeli society; and

6 WHEREAS, Israel, with courage and high ethical standards,
7 has defended itself from repeated attacks since its
8 independence, including by terrorist adversaries such as Hamas
9 and Hezbollah that violate international law by using civilians
10 as human shields; and

11 WHEREAS, Israel has established peaceful bilateral
12 relations with Egypt and Jordan and has sought to achieve a
13 secure peace with the Palestinians and Israel's other Arab
14 neighbors; and

15 WHEREAS, For seven decades, the United States, Illinois,
16 and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on
17 mutually shared democratic and moral values, common strategic
18 interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

19 WHEREAS, The American people and people of Illinois feel a
20 strong affinity for the Israeli people based on common values
21 and shared cultural heritage; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States and Illinois continue to regard
2 Israel as a trusted ally and vital strategic partner in the
3 volatile Middle East; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the
6 historic significance of the 70th anniversary of the
7 reestablishment of the sovereign and independent state of
8 Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm the bonds of friendship and
10 cooperation which have existed between the United States,
11 Illinois, and Israel for the past 70 years, and commit to
12 strengthening those bonds; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we commend the people of Israel for their
14 remarkable achievements in building a new state and a
15 pluralistic, democratic society in the face of terrorism, as
16 well as hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from many of
17 their neighbors; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our support for Israel's right
19 to defend itself against threats to its security and existence;
20 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our enduring support for Israel
2 as Israel pursues peace with its neighbors; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we extend the warmest congratulations and
4 best wishes to the state of Israel and Israeli people for a
5 peaceful and prosperous future.