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LRB103 26091 ECR 52446 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to partition British Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state; this was a compromise embraced by leadership of the nascent Jewish state; and

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WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the independent State of Israel; 11 minutes later, President Truman, on behalf of the United States, became the first world leader to recognize Israel's provisional government as the legitimate authority in the area allotted to it; and

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WHEREAS, The uninterrupted dream of the Jewish people to reestablish their independent state was directly linked to their historic sovereignty in the Land of Israel; this was first established 3,000 years ago with the city of Jerusalem as its capital then as it is 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 a continuous Jewish presence in the land comprising the modern State of Israel; and

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1 WHEREAS, The State of Israel provided a refuge to Jews who
2 survived the destruction of much of the European Jewry during
3 the Holocaust; and

4 WHEREAS, Israel has provided the opportunity for millions
5 of Jews from all over the world, including immigrants fleeing
6 antisemitism and oppression from such countries as Ethiopia,
7 the former Soviet Union, Argentina, Syria, Morocco, Iraq,
8 Iran, India, other parts of the Middle East, North Africa,
9 South America, and Asia, to make new lives in their ancient
10 homeland; and

11 WHEREAS, Since its establishment 75 years ago, the modern
12 State of Israel has rebuilt the nation, forged a new and
13 dynamic society, and created a thriving economic, political,
14 cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy burdens of
15 war and terrorism; and

16 WHEREAS, The people of Israel, in the spirit of Israel's
17 Declaration of Independence, have established a vibrant,
18 pluralistic, democratic political system which includes
19 freedom of speech, association, and religion, a vigorously
20 free press, free, fair, and open elections, the rule of law, a
21 fully independent judiciary, rights for the LGBTQ+ community,
22 and other democratic principles and practices; and

1 WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the world's leading
2 universities and hospitals, some of which are partnering with
3 Illinois-based institutions in Chicago and elsewhere; and

4 WHEREAS, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial
5 economy, has one of the world's leading technological
6 industries, and is at the forefront of research and
7 development in the fields of renewable energy sources and
8 medicine; and

9 WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search
10 and rescue teams, mobile hospitals, and other emergency
11 supplies to help victims of disasters around the world,
12 including setting up field hospitals and sending personnel and
13 supplies to Ukraine, Haiti, Japan, Nepal, and Surfside,
14 Florida; and

15 WHEREAS, Israel has courageously defended itself from
16 repeated attacks since its independence while never losing
17 sight of the determination to live in peace with all of its
18 neighbors; and

19 WHEREAS, Thanks to the Abraham Accords, Israel has been
20 able to expand its peaceful relations across the Middle East
21 from not only Egypt and Jordan to now include the United Arab
22 Emirates, Morocco, Bahrain, and Sudan; and

1 WHEREAS, Since the founding of the modern State of Israel,
2 the United States, Illinois, and Israel have maintained a
3 special relationship based on mutually shared democratic and
4 moral values, common strategic interests, and bonds of
5 friendship and mutual respect; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States and Illinois continue to regard
7 Israel as a trusted ally and vital strategic partner in the
8 Middle East; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize and
11 applaud the historic significance of the 75th anniversary of
12 the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of
13 Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm the bonds of friendship and
15 cooperation which have existed between the United States,
16 Illinois, and Israel for the past 75 years and commit to
17 strengthening these bonds; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we commend the people of Israel for their
19 remarkable achievements in building a new state and a
20 pluralistic, democratic society in the face of terrorism as
21 well as hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from many of

1 their neighbors; and be it further

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

5 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our enduring support for Israel
6 as the country pursues peace with its neighbors; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That we extend our best wishes to the State of
9 Israel and its people for a peaceful and prosperous future.