

LA Jews for Peace

June 15, 2015

Assembly Member Jose Medina, Chair (Jose.Medina@asm.ca.gov)
Assembly Higher Education Committee
c/o Laura Metune, Chief Consultant (Laura.Metune@asm.ca.gov)
v/o Karen Teel, Committee Secretary (Karen.Teel@asm.ca.gov)

RE: Planned committee discussion of SCR-35

Please be advised that **LA Jews for Peace** voted on June 15, 2015 to endorse the June 8, 2015 letter from David Mandel and others concerning SCR-35. A copy of the letter is attached to this message.

LA Jews for Peace fully supports the recommendations in the June 8 letter:

We recommend that this resolution be shelved or redrafted to firmly distinguish between unlawful acts and protected political speech; and to avoid mischaracterizing political criticism of Israeli policy as anti-Semitic.

At a minimum, the reference to the State Department definition of anti-Semitism should be replaced with a standard dictionary definition; and to make clear the type of speech being addressed, the language added in the Senate committee affirming free speech should be amended to add the underlined clause:

Nothing in this resolution is intended to diminish the rights of anyone, including students, to freely engage in any speech or other legal activity protected by the United States Constitution, including that which is critical or supportive of the policies of any country.

LA Jews for Peace is a group of Jewish and non-Jewish Angelenos committed to peace in the greater Middle East through an end of the Israeli occupation (of the West Bank including East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights), a negotiated agreement that assures Palestinians national, civil, and human rights equivalent to those of Jewish Israelis, and opposition to the United States government policies of militarism and imperialism based on American exceptionalism.

Representatives from our group would like to meet with you or any member of the Assembly Higher Education Committee to discuss the ramification of SCR-35 and explain why we urge you to follow the June 8 letter recommendations. Do not hesitate to contact us by email at

info@LAJewsforPeace.org

or by phone (either Jeff Warner at 213-405-1494 or Dick Platkin at 213-308-6354).

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Warner

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213-405-1494

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Letter to Assembly
Higher Ed Committee.