



SENATE RESOLUTION 09-009

BY SENATOR(S) Foster, Brophy, Bacon, Boyd, Cadman, Carroll M., Gibbs, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Keller, Kester, King K., Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Penry, Renfroe, Romer, Sandoval, Scheffel, Schwartz, Spence, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Groff, Schultheis, Shaffer B., Kopp, White.

CONCERNING THE STRONG EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN ITS BATTLE AGAINST RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS AND REAFFIRMING THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE COLORADO SENATE FOR THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS.

WHEREAS, Since the establishment of the state of Israel over sixty years ago, the people of Israel have built a modern nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, cultural, and intellectual life while confronting immense pressures and burdens resulting from war, terrorism, ostracism from much of the international community, and economic boycotts; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the severe degree of adversity confronting the people of Israel since 1948, including the War of Independence, the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the two Intifadas, the conflict with Hezbollah in the summer of 2006, and the recent terrorist attacks that have erupted from Gaza culminating in military conflict in December of 2008, the people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic and democratic political system that guarantees fundamental freedoms of speech and of the press; free, fair, and open elections; and respect for the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, For over sixty years, the people of the United States and the people of the state of Israel have created and maintained a special relationship based upon mutually shared democratic values, common

strategic interests, and the bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, Hamas, an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a paramilitary organization and political party in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza that was founded with the stated goal of destroying the state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and other nations with which this nation is allied; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has refused to comply with the requirements of the Quartet, comprised of the United States, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations, that Hamas recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, In June 2006, Hamas forces crossed the Israeli border, attacked Israeli soldiers, and kidnaped Corporal Gilad Shalit, whom Hamas has continued to imprison to this day; and

WHEREAS, The people of the state of Israel have struggled to defend themselves against the barrage of unprovoked rocket attacks perpetrated against them by Hamas, including the several thousand kassam and katyusha rockets launched by Hamas since Israel made the painful decision in August of 2005 to withdraw its troops and citizens from Gaza; and

WHEREAS, These rockets have been indiscriminately launched at homes, schools, businesses, and synagogues in Israel's southern communities with the sole goal of killing as many innocent civilians as possible, have terrorized hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, including tens of thousands of children, have caused considerable property damage, have inflicted severe physical injury, and have resulted in numerous deaths; and

WHEREAS, Upon his visit in July of 2008 to the city of Sderot, an Israeli city that has been the target of numerous attacks, President-elect Barack Obama said, "I don't think any country would find it acceptable to have missiles raining down on the heads of its citizens. The first job of any nation state is to protect its citizens. . . If somebody was sending rockets into my house where my two daughters sleep at night, I'm going to do

everything in my power to stop that. And I would expect Israelis to do the same thing."; and

WHEREAS, No sovereign nation can or would long tolerate the unrelenting and unprovoked attacks that Israel has had to endure for the past several years at the hands of terrorists whose ultimate goal is the annihilation of the most democratic state in the region; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has increased the range of its rockets, reportedly with support from Iran and others, putting greater numbers of Israelis and more of its cities, including its major population centers alongside the Mediterranean coast, in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza, threatening millions of Israelis with a daily real threat of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, After Hamas violated a six-month long Egyptian-brokered cease-fire by continuing to launch rockets into southern Israel, Israel launched Operation Cast Lead in defense of its sovereign borders and to eliminate Hamas' ability to terrorize innocent Israeli citizens; and

WHEREAS, Although Operation Cast Lead is targeted against Hamas' military operations and the Israeli defense forces take great risks to avoid civilian casualties, Hamas uses Palestinian civilians as human shields by situating its terrorist infrastructure in close proximity to schools, hospitals, mosques, and residential areas, thereby putting the people of Gaza in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, The humanitarian situation in Gaza, manifested in shortages of food, gasoline, water, electricity, and adequate medical care, is becoming more acute; and

WHEREAS, Israel has facilitated humanitarian aid to Gaza with over 500 trucks and numerous ambulances carrying such needed assistance to Gaza since December 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The ultimate goal of the United States is a sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that will allow for a viable and independent Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with the state of Israel, an outcome that will not be possible as long as Israeli civilians are under almost daily threat of rocket attacks from Gaza; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

(1) That we express our deep and sincere regret about the \_\_\_ loss of human life on both sides of this conflict, extend our condolences to innocent Israeli and Palestinian victims and their families, and express our strong belief that innocent civilians be protected to the greatest extent possible;

(2) That we hereby express our vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the state of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and recognize and support its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism;

(3) That we encourage the Obama administration to work actively to support a durable, enforceable, and sustainable cease-fire in Gaza, at the earliest possible date, that prevents Hamas from retaining or rebuilding its capacity to launch rockets against Israel and allows the long-term improvement of daily living conditions for the ordinary people of Gaza; and

(4) That we reiterate our strong support for efforts by the United States government to promote a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a serious and sustained peace process that leads to the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside a secure state of Israel.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, His Excellency Sallai Meridor, the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

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Peter C. Groff  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE