

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR HODGES AND REPRESENTATIVES BAYHAM, BILLINGS,
CARLSON, SCHAMERHORN AND WYBLE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to support the nation of Israel in the wake
of the October 7, 2023, terror attacks and Israel's efforts to root out Hamas.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State has designated Hamas as a
terrorist organization; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a coordinated series of terrorist
attacks on Israel that resulted in the slaughter of women, children, and the elderly totaling
eight hundred fifty-nine civilians, two hundred eighty-three Israeli Defense Force soldiers,
fifty-seven policemen, and ten members of the Israeli Security Agency, Shin Bet; and

WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists abducted two hundred forty-eight people, including
at least six Americans, to use as hostages and human shields; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has issued a report stating that it has grounds to
believe Hamas has sexually assaulted its hostages, including gang rape; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has launched over four thousand rockets into Israel; and

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists have killed over nine hundred
Israelis, at least eleven Americans, and injured more than two thousand others; and

WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists use Palestinian civilians as human shields; and

WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists hide and launch attacks from civilian centers; and

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, Hamas is directly responsible for the deaths of
an indeterminable number of Palestinian civilians; and

WHEREAS, Hamas considers the death of Palestinian civilians a good thing as the
innocent collateral dead are "martyrs" to the goals of Hamas; and

WHEREAS, United States government assessments indicate that, "Iran provides up
to \$100 million annually in support to Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas"; and

WHEREAS, foreign support will sustain Hamas in its terror campaign to destroy
Israel; and

WHEREAS, Israel is a major ally and strategic partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Israel holds paramount importance to direct negotiations in achieving a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, without preconditions; and

WHEREAS, Israel stands firm in its rejection of unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state, considering it a detrimental reward to terrorism and an impediment to future peace settlements; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to affirm Israel's commitment to peaceful negotiations and reject any imposition of international dicta that undermine the sovereignty and security of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has not forgotten the humanitarian aid provided by Israel to the people of Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the 2016 flood; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and Israel share numerous economic and educational ties that benefit many Louisiana businesses and universities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby:

(1) Stand with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric terror campaign launched by Hamas and its supporters.

(2) Reaffirm Israel's right to self-defense as a sovereign nation.

(3) Condemn Hamas' brutal terror campaign against Israel.

(4) Call on Hamas to immediately cease all attacks and safely release all living hostages and return the bodies of deceased hostages to their families.

(5) Mourn the nine hundred Israelis and eleven Americans killed and over two thousand six hundred others wounded by Hamas since its attack on October 7, 2023.

(6) Mourn the loss of all innocent civilians who died and recognize those injured and suffering due to the fighting in the Middle East.

(7) Support the United States' commitment to Israel's security.

(8) Urge full enforcement of the Taylor Force Act (title X of division S of Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 1143) and other restrictions in United States law to prevent United States foreign assistance from benefitting terrorists, directly or indirectly.

(9) Urge full enforcement of United States sanctions against Iran to prevent Iran's funding of terrorist groups including Hamas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby support Israel in its right to categorically reject any international dicta concerning a permanent settlement with the Palestinians that is not the product of direct negotiations between the concerned parties devoid of any preconditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby stand with Israel in its opposition to unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state as such statehood, particularly in the aftermath of the October 7th massacre, would serve as an egregious and unprecedented reward to terrorism, thereby obstructing prospects for future peace settlements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to support the nation of Israel in the wake of the October 7, 2023, terror attacks, support Israel's ongoing efforts to root out Hamas, reaffirm support for Israel's principled stance on negotiations, and stand with Israel in opposition to any unilateral impositions that will serve to undermine Israel's right to defend its people and territory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Consul General of the State of Israel to the Southwest in Houston, Texas, to the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C. for transmission to the proper authorities in the State of Israel, and to the Louisiana Chapter of American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and the Louisiana Chapter of Christians United for Israel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES