

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Condemns antisemitic violence on college campuses and expresses support for Louisiana's Jewish students, faculty, staff, and communities

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To condemn antisemitic violence on college campuses, including campuses in Louisiana,
3 and to express support for Louisiana's Jewish students, faculty, staff, and
4 communities.

5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of State has designated Hamas as a
6 terrorist organization; on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a coordinated series of terrorist
7 attacks on Israel that resulted in the slaughter of women, children, and the elderly and the
8 deaths of Israeli Defense Force soldiers, police officers, and members of the Israel Security
9 Agency, Shin Bet; and

10 WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists abducted two hundred fifty people, including at least
11 six Americans, to use as hostages and human shields; the United Nations has issued a report
12 stating that its officials have found "clear and convincing" evidence that Hamas has sexually
13 assaulted its hostages, including gang rape; and

14 WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, protests on American college campuses against
15 the State of Israel's response to the terrorist attacks have devolved into violent, antisemitic
16 mobs targeting Jewish students, faculty, and staff; protestors have "occupied" buildings and
17 taken over shared campus facilities to prevent Jews from accessing the interior; faculty who
18 engage in or help organize antisemitic collective actions are able to keep their jobs while
19 Jewish professors have their access to campus revoked; university administrators have
20 canceled classes and other university activities or moved them online; and

1 WHEREAS, approximately forty percent of Tulane University's student population
2 is Jewish; Loyola University has a smaller Jewish population, but its Jewish students and
3 professors have also been threatened and harassed by protestors at demonstrations on or near
4 the campuses; on October 26, 2023, a rally near Tulane turned violent as protesters
5 attempted to set fire to an Israeli flag, a Jewish Tulane student was struck multiple times
6 with a flagpole, and another student was hit with a megaphone; and

7 WHEREAS, rallies and protests at or near Tulane, Loyola, and LSU have featured
8 slogans chanted by protesters that are explicitly antisemitic in origin; the chant heard at
9 protests, "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free," refers to the Eastern and
10 Western borders of the current State of Israel; thus, the chant implies the destruction of the
11 State of Israel and the death or displacement of its Jewish citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, the chant heard at protests, "There is only one solution: Intifada
13 revolution," refers to the Intifadas, a systematized, coordinated series of terrorist attacks on
14 Israelis by Palestinian groups, and thus calls for more terrorist attacks on Jews around the
15 world; the chant's similarity to the Nazis "Final Solution" is intentional; variations of the
16 chant, "Israel, Israel, you can't hide: we charge you with genocide," including, "Tulane,
17 Tulane, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide", and "LSU, LSU, you can't hide, we
18 charge you with genocide" contain demonstrably false allegations of genocide; the slogans,
19 "Zionism is racism" and "Zionists are Nazis" replicate Soviet-era propaganda explicitly used
20 to purge and persecute Soviet Jewry and negate the Jewish people's right to
21 self-determination; and

22 WHEREAS, campus protests feature flags or insignia of designated terrorist
23 organizations whose purpose is the destruction of Israel and genocide of Jews; Jewish
24 symbols or items commonly associated with Jews, including the Star of David and the Israeli
25 flag, have been defaced at Tulane, including placement around campus of stickers depicting
26 the Star of David being thrown into a trash can, and signs depicting a defaced Star of David
27 have been seen at LSU; and

28 WHEREAS, Tulane buildings have been defaced with antisemitic graffiti, including
29 "From the River to the Sea" on the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library; Jewish students at
30 Tulane and Loyola report having their property destroyed by protestors; Jewish students and

1 faculty at Tulane, Loyola, and LSU have been subjected to targeted verbal harassment by
2 protestors while attempting to access common campus facilities, walk to class, or walk to
3 their dormitories; and

4 WHEREAS, *The Loyola Maroon*, Loyola's student newspaper, published an editorial
5 characterizing the Hamas terrorist attack as a justified response to "Israeli Occupying
6 Forces" activity and accusing the "Israeli Zionist entity" of "genocide"; *The Tulane*
7 *Hullabaloo*, Tulane's student newspaper, published an editorial cautioning that the
8 racialization of Jewish identity, including the proliferation of ideas that "Jews benefit from
9 white supremacy," and "all Jews are white colonialist oppressors" perpetuates antisemitism
10 and justifies the erasure of any protected status for Jews; the newspaper also reported that
11 chants of "N.O.P.D., KKK, IDF, they're all the same," and "Israel bombs, Tulane Hillel pays,
12 how many kids did you kill today," were chanted by protestors who disrupted an event
13 hosted by Hillel; and

14 WHEREAS, protestors on campuses, including Tulane and Loyola, have erected
15 encampments that create a disruptive and hostile physical environment in publicly accessible
16 places with the intent of intimidating Jewish students and administrators; protestors
17 explicitly bar "Zionists" from entering encampments, and as eighty percent of American
18 Jews identify as "Zionist," this is a de facto prohibition against Jews; protestors also bar
19 entry to students wearing Jewish symbols and prevent Jewish students from passing near or
20 through the encampment in order to attend classes or use shared campus facilities; and

21 WHEREAS, faculty and administrators on college campuses, including Tulane,
22 Loyola, and LSU, have provided unequal protections for Jewish students, faculty, and staff,
23 with faculty and administrators openly siding with protestors instead of maintaining a
24 commitment to the safety of all; student groups like Students for Justice in Palestine are
25 allowed to continue operation and disseminate pro-Hamas literature on school grounds,
26 despite Students for Justice in Palestine's funding being linked to known terrorist groups,
27 including Hamas; and

28 WHEREAS, fortified encampments are being set up on or near school grounds,
29 including at Tulane and Loyola, despite breaking rules against trespassing, vagrancy laws,
30 and other prohibitions; protestors wearing face coverings, balaclavas, and face-obscuring

1 keffiyahs appear to run afoul of an anti-Ku Klux Klan law that prohibits people from
2 wearing masks to conceal their identities in public; and

3 WHEREAS, instigators of violent protests and organizers of the encampments are
4 not held fully accountable for their actions, and Tulane, Loyola, and LSU faculty members
5 have advocated for "restorative justice" and dropping student suspensions issued to those
6 determined to be responsible for campus violence and the encampments; and

7 WHEREAS, Loyola faculty members circulated a letter in support of students facing
8 criminal charges and university discipline as a result of their participation in the illegal
9 encampment and called upon the university to decline to hold the students responsible for
10 their actions by refraining from bringing charges of Code of Conduct violations; and

11 WHEREAS, administrators released statements denouncing both antisemitism and
12 Islamophobia, never antisemitism alone, which implies that the two are equivalent or caused
13 by each other; Tulane canceled classes or moved them online rather than clear out
14 encampments or protestors obstructing points of access to school facilities; nonstudent and
15 nonfaculty protestors are allowed access to school facilities and resources and illegally
16 trespass on school grounds, but Jewish students and faculty are prevented from accessing
17 school facilities; and

18 WHEREAS, the New Orleans Police Department and Louisiana State Police have
19 directed Tulane campus safety officials to allow the illegal encampment to persist.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 condemn antisemitic violence on college campuses, including campuses in Louisiana, and
22 expresses support for Louisiana's Jewish students, faculty, staff, and communities.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby condemn violence,
24 intimidation, lawlessness, and acts of antisemitism on college campuses; condemn protest
25 activities that prevent Jewish students and faculty from accessing school facilities, libraries,
26 dining halls, and other common areas; support the right of all students to peacefully
27 assemble; support the right of Jewish college students, faculty, and staff to feel safe and
28 secure on their campuses; support the right of Jewish college students to attend classes and
29 access all areas of campus; and support the right of Jews to worship peacefully and without
30 fear of violence or intimidation.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 Louisiana Chapter of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Tulane Hillel, Hillel
3 at LSU, Loyola University New Orleans, University of New Orleans, Anti-Defamation
4 League-South Central, Chabad-Lubavitch of Louisiana, Jewish Federation of Greater New
5 Orleans, Jewish Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, North Louisiana Jewish Federation, and
6 Jewish Federations of North America.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 123 Engrossed

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