

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 353

BY REPRESENTATIVES BAYHAM, AMEDEE, BACALA, BILLINGS, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARLSON, CHENEVERT, EDMONSTON, EGAN, EMERSON, FIRMENT, GLORIOSO, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, TAYLOR, VENTRELLA, AND WYBLE

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State has designated Hamas as a terrorist organization; 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 and the deaths of Israeli Defense Force soldiers, police officers, and members of the Israel Security Agency, Shin Bet; and

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

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, protests on American college campuses against the State of Israel's response to the terrorist attacks have devolved into violent, antisemitic mobs targeting Jewish students, faculty, and staff; protestors have "occupied" buildings and taken over shared campus facilities to prevent Jews from accessing the interior; faculty who engage in or help organize antisemitic collective actions are able to keep their jobs while

Jewish professors have their access to campus revoked; university administrators have canceled classes and other university activities or moved them online; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Tulane buildings have been defaced with antisemitic graffiti, including "From the River to the Sea" on the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library; Jewish students at

Tulane and Loyola report having their property destroyed by protestors; Jewish students and faculty at Tulane, Loyola, and LSU have been subjected to targeted verbal harassment by protestors while attempting to access common campus facilities, walk to class, or walk to their dormitories; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Chapter of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Tulane Hillel, Hillel

at LSU, Loyola University New Orleans, University of New Orleans, Anti-Defamation League-South Central, Chabad-Lubavitch of Louisiana, Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, Jewish Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, North Louisiana Jewish Federation, and Jewish Federations of North America.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES