

Senate Joint Memorial 9

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

States opposition to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, urges strengthening of United States-Israel relationship and calls for direct, bilateral negotiations to resolve Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States, the United States Permanent Representative to the United
3 Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the members of the Oregon Congres-
4 sional Delegation:

5 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
6 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

7 Whereas the United States has long supported a negotiated settlement leading to a sustainable
8 two-state solution with the democratic Jewish state of Israel and a demilitarized, democratic
9 Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security; and

10 Whereas since 1993, the United States has facilitated direct, bilateral negotiations between both
11 parties toward achieving a two-state solution and ending all outstanding claims; and

12 Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the
13 Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only come through direct, bilateral negotiations between the two
14 parties; and

15 Whereas it is the long-standing position of the United States to oppose and, if necessary, veto
16 United Nations Security Council resolutions dictating additional binding parameters on the peace
17 process; and

18 Whereas it is the long-standing position of the United States to oppose and, if necessary, veto
19 one-sided or anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations Security Council; and

20 Whereas the United States has stood in the minority internationally over successive adminis-
21 trations in defending Israel in international forums, including vetoing one-sided resolutions in 2011,
22 2006, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1997 and 1995 before the United Nations Security Council; and

23 Whereas the United States recently signed a new memorandum of understanding with the gov-
24 ernment of Israel regarding security assistance, consistent with long-standing support for Israel
25 among successive administrations and congresses and representing an important United States
26 commitment toward Israel's qualitative military edge; and

27 Whereas on November 29, 2016, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed
28 House Concurrent Resolution 165, reaffirming long-standing United States policy in support of a di-
29 rect, bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United
30 Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict; and

31 Whereas on December 23, 2016, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Na-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 tions disregarded House Concurrent Resolution 165 and departed from long-standing United States
2 policy by abstaining and permitting United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (“UNSCR
3 2334”) to be adopted under chapter VI of the United Nations Charter; and

4 Whereas the United States’s abstention on UNSCR 2334 contradicts the Oslo Accords and its
5 associated process that is predicated on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between the parties
6 through direct negotiations; and

7 Whereas UNSCR 2334 claims that “the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian
8 territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a fla-
9 grant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state
10 solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace”; and

11 Whereas by referring to the “4 June 1967 lines” as the basis for negotiations, UNSCR 2334 ef-
12 fectively states that the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Western Wall,
13 Judaism’s holiest site, are “occupied territory,” thereby equating these sites with outposts in the
14 West Bank that the Israeli government has deemed illegal; and

15 Whereas passage of UNSCR 2334 effectively lends legitimacy to efforts by the Palestinian Au-
16 thority to impose its own solution through international organizations and through unjustified boy-
17 cotts or divestment campaigns against Israel by calling “upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph
18 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of
19 Israel and the territories occupied since 1967” and will require the United States and Israel to take
20 effective action to counteract the potential harmful impact of UNSCR 2334; and

21 Whereas UNSCR 2334 did not directly call upon Palestinian leadership to fulfill their obligations
22 toward negotiations or mention that part of the eventual Palestinian state is currently controlled
23 by Hamas, a designated terrorist organization; and

24 Whereas UNSCR 2334 both sought to impose or unduly influence solutions to final status issues
25 and is biased against Israel; now, therefore,

26 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

27 (1) The passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 undermined the long-
28 standing position of the United States to oppose and veto United Nations Security Council resolu-
29 tions that seek to impose solutions to final status issues, or are one-sided and anti-Israel, reversing
30 decades of bipartisan agreement.

31 (2) The passage of UNSCR 2334 undermines the prospect of Israelis and Palestinians resuming
32 productive, direct negotiations.

33 (3) The passage of UNSCR 2334 contributes to the politically motivated acts of boycott,
34 divestment from and sanctions against Israel and represents a concerted effort to extract conces-
35 sions from Israel outside of direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians, which must
36 be actively rejected.

37 (4) Any future measures taken in international or outside organizations, including the United
38 Nations Security Council or at conferences such as the Paris conference on the Israeli-Palestinian
39 conflict held on January 15, 2017, to impose an agreement, or parameters for an agreement, includ-
40 ing the recognition of a Palestinian state, will set back the cause of peace, harm the security of
41 Israel, run counter to the enduring bipartisan consensus on strengthening the United States-Israel
42 relationship and weaken support for such organizations.

43 (5) A durable and sustainable peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians will come
44 only through direct, bilateral negotiations between the parties resulting in a democratic Jewish
45 state living side by side with a demilitarized Palestinian state in peace and security.

1 (6) The United States should work to facilitate serious, direct negotiations between the parties
2 without preconditions toward a sustainable peace agreement.

3 (7) The United States government should oppose and veto future United Nations Security
4 Council resolutions that seek to impose solutions to final status issues or are one-sided and anti-
5 Israel.

6 (8) The Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly opposes UNSCR 2334.

7 (9) The United States-Israel relationship should be strengthened.

8 (10) UNSCR 2334 should be repealed or fundamentally altered so that the resolution:

9 (a) Is no longer one-sided and anti-Israel; and

10 (b) Allows all final status issues toward a two-state solution to be resolved through direct, bi-
11 lateral negotiations between the parties.

12 (11) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, the United
13 States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Na-
14 tions and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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