**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE HIS EXCELLENCY BENJAMIN NETANYAHU ON HIS ELECTION TO A FOURTH TERM AS PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, AND WISH HIM AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are very pleased to note that His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu secured a fourth term as Prime Minister of Israel in elections held on March 17, 2015; and

Whereas, since its founding in 1948, Israel has been a strong and steadfast ally to the United States based on a relationship of mutual respect for common values, including a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, free‑market principles, and ethnic and religious diversity; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina proudly shares a close relationship to Israel in terms of educational exchanges, economic development partnerships with Israeli companies doing business in South Carolina, exports from South Carolina to Israel, and political support of the Jewish Nation through legislative action, including: South Carolina Stands With Israel Resolution (2011), Iran Divestment Act (2014), Resolution Condemning Educational Boycotts of Israel (2014), South Carolina Stands With Israel Vehicle License Tags (2014) and the pending Sovereign Anti-discrimination Act (passed in the House 2015, pending in the Senate); and

Whereas, a shining model of democratic values, Israel regularly holds free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising a form of democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens; and

Whereas, with great courage and dignity, Israel meets constant threats from nations that refuse to recognize its right to exist and seek its destruction, particularly Iran, whose ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a serious threat both to Israel and the United States; and

Whereas, after serving as the Israeli Prime Minister from June 1996 to July 1999, Benjamin Netanyahu resumed leadership of Israel following the 2009 Parliamentary election, and was reelected in 2013, becoming only the second person elected to that position for a third term; and

Whereas, disagreements within the [governing coalition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-third_government_of_Israel) led to the dissolution of the government in December 2014, but the election of March 17, 2015, resulted the recommendation of Benjamin Netanyahu for prime minister by a majority of the elected parties and a clear mandate for the government to remain under his leadership; and

Whereas, it is appropriate for the members of the House of Representatives to pause in their deliberations to congratulate His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu on his success in recent Israeli national elections to secure a fourth term as Prime Minister of Israel. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu on his election to a fourth term as Prime Minister of Israel, and wish him and the people of Israel peace and prosperity in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu.

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