**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO USE DECISIVE FORCE IN DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS AND TO REAFFIRM SOUTH CAROLINA’S STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

Whereas, the Biden Administration has stated that “Israel has the right to defend itself and to respond to rocket attacks”; and

Whereas, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad were founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel; and

Whereas, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have been designated by the United States as Foreign Terrorist Organizations; and

Whereas, these terrorist organizations have refused to recognize Israel’s right to exist, agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinian‑Arabs, or to renounce violence; and

Whereas, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad locate elements of their terrorist infrastructure in civilian population centers, thus using innocent civilians as human shields; and

Whereas, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have launched hundreds of rockets and mortars against Israeli population centers in recent days in an attempt to kill innocent civilians, putting hundreds of thousands of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives expresses its vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel and recognizes its right to act decisively in self‑defense to protect its citizens and end aggressions by the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organizations. It also reiterates that Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad must end the rocket and mortar attacks against Israel, and verifiably dismantle their terrorist infrastructure and extends its deepest condolences to Israeli victims and their families and to innocent Palestinian‑Arabs. Additionally, the House calls upon all other American states to condemn Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad and recognize Israel’s right to act decisively in self defense to protect its citizens. Now, therefore:

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize Israel’s right to use decisive force in defending itself against attacks and reaffirm South Carolina’s strong support for Israel.

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