

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 49

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Supports resolutions in each House of Congress disapproving of decision of U.S. to abstain from voting on United Nations Security Council resolution condemning certain new Israeli settlements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** supporting the resolutions in each House
2 of Congress disapproving of the decision of the United States to
3 abstain from voting on a United Nations Security Council
4 resolution condemning certain new Israeli settlements.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey and Israel have always shared deep cultural
7 and economic ties; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The State of Israel has been a loyal friend and strong ally
9 to the United States since its establishment in 1948; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The United States Government has historically opposed
11 and vetoed United Nations Security Council resolutions that are
12 one-sided and overly critical of Israel; and
13 **WHEREAS**, On December 23, 2016, the United Nations Security
14 Council adopted Resolution 2334, which condemns Israeli
15 settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The United States government, under the direction of
17 President Barack Obama, broke its well-established commitment to
18 the State of Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, and broke
19 with longstanding United States foreign policy by refusing to veto
20 this resolution condemning Israel; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Contrary to the United States’ objective of encouraging
22 direct, bilateral negotiations, allowing the resolution to pass instead
23 incentivizes parties to seek recourse through international
24 institutions; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Not only does the resolution threaten, rather than promote,
26 peace in the Middle East, it jeopardizes Israel’s position with regard
27 to the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling Israel’s actions a
28 “flagrant violation under international law” and implicitly
29 encouraging advancement of the preliminary examination of
30 whether Israeli officials have engaged in the “war crime” of
31 settlement building; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The United States chose to abstain from the vote on
33 Resolution 2334 despite the statements of United States
34 Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power that Israel has
35 been treated differently from other nations at the United Nations, as
36 evidenced by the abundance of resolutions against Israel adopted
37 during the U.N. General Assembly and in the Human Rights
38 Council in 2016, more than those focused on any other specific
39 country such as Syria, North Korea, Iran, or South Sudan; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Leaders considered by the Obama Administration as
41 “principled on behalf of peace” and advocates of a two-state
42 solution criticized the resolution and recognized it as damaging to
43 Israel and its interests; and
44 **WHEREAS**, The United States House of Representatives voted
45 overwhelmingly in favor of a bipartisan resolution on January 5,
46 2017, declaring unwavering support for Israel and insisting that the
47 United States reject any future United Nations actions that are “one-
48 sided and anti-Israel”; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, A similar measure was introduced in the United States
2 Senate on January 4, 2017, and has also received bipartisan support;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, The United Nations is not the appropriate venue and
5 should not be a forum used for seeking unilateral action or dictating
6 the parameters for a two-state solution, including the status of
7 Jerusalem; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Allowing Resolution 2334 to pass was morally wrong,
9 strategically damaging, and reversed decades of past practice; now,
10 therefore,

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12 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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14 1. This House supports the resolutions in the United State
15 House of Representatives and the United States Senate disapproving
16 of the decision of the United States to abstain from voting on
17 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, adopted
18 December 23, 2016.

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20 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
21 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
22 and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority
23 Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Majority and
24 Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, the
25 United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and each member
26 of the United States Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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31 New Jersey and Israel have always shared deep cultural and
32 economic ties. The State of Israel has been a loyal friend and strong
33 ally to the United States since its establishment in 1948. Though the
34 United States Government has historically opposed and vetoed
35 United Nations Security Council resolutions that are overly critical
36 of Israel, on December 23, 2016, the United States Government,
37 under the direction of President Barack Obama, broke its
38 longstanding commitment to the State of Israel by refusing to veto
39 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which condemns
40 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

41 The United States House of Representatives voted
42 overwhelmingly in support of a bipartisan resolution on January 5,
43 2017, declaring unwavering support for Israel and insisting that the
44 United States reject any future United Nations actions that are “one-
45 sided and anti-Israel.” A similar measure was introduced in the
46 United States Senate on January 4, 2017, and has also received
47 bipartisan support.

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1 Allowing Resolution 2334 to pass was morally wrong,
2 strategically damaging, and reversed decades of past practice. Thus,
3 the Senate of the State of New Jersey supports the resolutions in the
4 United State House of Representatives and the United States Senate
5 disapproving of the decision of the United States to abstain from
6 voting on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016).