

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 382      Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY L. I. COHEN, DECEMBER 12, 2001

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, DECEMBER 12, 2001

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the American Red Cross to continue its strong support of  
2 Israel's full membership in the International Federation of  
3 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to continue to  
4 pressure the International Red Cross until justice prevails.

5 WHEREAS, Last year, Americans donated more than \$630 million  
6 to the American Red Cross; and

7 WHEREAS, This massive support reflects the reputation of the  
8 American Red Cross in upholding a key American ideal, providing  
9 humanitarian disaster relief to anyone in need regardless of  
10 religion, race or national origin; and

11 WHEREAS, For the past 52 years, Israel's Red Cross  
12 counterpart, Magen David Adom, has been relegated to nonvoting  
13 observer status in the international federation; and

14 WHEREAS, Magen David Adom is the only disaster relief  
15 organization of a sovereign nation to be discriminated against  
16 in this way; and

17 WHEREAS, The international federation says it excludes Israel  
18 because Magen David Adom's symbol is a red six-pointed Star of

1 David instead of the red cross used by Western nations or the  
2 red crescent used in Muslim countries and that officially  
3 recognizing a third symbol, according to international  
4 federation bureaucrats in Geneva, would reduce recognition of  
5 the red cross and the red crescent as neutral, noncombatant  
6 insignia; and

7 WHEREAS, The international federation adopted its cross-or-  
8 crescent-only rule in 1949, and that rule has existed for a half  
9 century for one reason: pressure from the international  
10 federation's Arab members to exclude Israel as part of their  
11 ongoing political warfare against a Jewish state in their midst;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, With American values of openness, tolerance and  
14 multicultural inclusion under attack by extremists around the  
15 world, this is no time to acquiesce to Israel's continued  
16 exclusion from the international family of disaster relief  
17 organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Bernadine Healy, when she resigned as president  
19 of the American Red Cross, said: "We are a country that doesn't  
20 exclude. You don't belong to a country club that excludes blacks  
21 or Jews"; and

22 WHEREAS, Israel's Magen David Adom must not be forced to wait  
23 another 52 years before justice is done and it is fully accepted  
24 by the international federation; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the American Red Cross to  
27 continue to support the inclusion of Magen David Adom as a full  
28 member in the councils of the International Federation of Red  
29 Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to continue to pressure the  
30 International Red Cross until justice prevails.