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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 315 Session of  
2010

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INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, DINNIMAN, STACK AND SCARNATI,  
APRIL 27, 2010

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 27, 2010

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A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the resurgence of anti-Semitism on college and  
2 university campuses and calling upon the Department of  
3 Education, the State System of Higher Education, each of the  
4 State-related universities and all of Pennsylvania's  
5 independent colleges and universities to remain vigilant and  
6 guarded against acts of anti-Semitism against college and  
7 university students.

8 WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism is an intolerable and ugly form of  
9 bigotry, prejudice and hostility directed toward persons of the  
10 Jewish faith, often based on the individual's ethnic, cultural  
11 or religious identity; and

12 WHEREAS, Instances of anti-Semitic conduct, speech and  
13 intimidation on college and university campuses have increased  
14 during the past several years, giving rise to the perception  
15 that such conduct and hate-based speech will be tolerated under  
16 the guise of First Amendment academic freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Commission on Civil Rights has  
18 acknowledged the resurgence of anti-Semitic conduct on college  
19 and university campuses as a serious problem and has recommended  
20 that the United States Department of Education's Office for

1 Civil Rights protect against anti-Semitic conduct through  
2 enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

3 WHEREAS, Anti-Semitic conduct on college and university  
4 campuses has manifested itself in various forms, such as  
5 patterns of threatening or intimidating behavior, derogatory  
6 remarks, vandalism, use of symbols of hatred and bigotry and, in  
7 rare cases, physical altercations; and

8 WHEREAS, Hostile environments have been created by college  
9 and university instructors, students and campus visitors; and

10 WHEREAS, Evidence suggests that some university or college  
11 departments of Middle Eastern studies provide highly  
12 inflammatory and polarizing academic presentations that may  
13 exclude Jewish student participation, academically discriminate  
14 or repress legitimate dissent; and

15 WHEREAS, Instances of anti-Semitic conduct have involved  
16 attempts to compare the nation of Israel to Nazi Germany in the  
17 1930s and 1940s and to demonize the Israeli Government and its  
18 supporters; and

19 WHEREAS, Such anti-Semitic instances have occurred throughout  
20 the nation's centers of academic study, including the University  
21 of California, Columbia University, Saint Cloud State College in  
22 Minnesota, Brown University, George Washington University and  
23 the University of North Dakota; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate condemn in the strongest possible  
25 terms any anti-Semitic conduct as an intolerable, base form of  
26 bigotry and hatred and recognize that such conduct, particularly  
27 within centers of academic study, is unacceptable and cannot be  
28 tolerated; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate request that the Department of  
30 Education and the State System of Higher Education, in

1 cooperation with each of the State-related universities and this  
2 Commonwealth's independent colleges and universities,  
3 acknowledge the serious problem of anti-Semitic conduct and the  
4 creation of a hostile learning environment such conduct fosters  
5 and take necessary steps to prevent such instances from  
6 occurring on Pennsylvania college and university campuses.