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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES.

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Objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 as an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 as an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States has long supported a negotiated settlement leading to a sustainable two-state solution with the democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a demilitarized, democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace and security;

Whereas since 1993, the United States has facilitated direct, bilateral negotiations between both parties toward achieving a two-state solution and ending all outstanding claims;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only come through direct, bilateral negotiations between the two parties;

Whereas it is the long-standing position of the United States to oppose and, if necessary, veto United Nations Security Council resolutions dictating additional binding parameters on the peace process;

Whereas it is the long-standing position of the United States to oppose and, if necessary, veto one-sided or anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas the United States has stood in the minority internationally over successive Administrations in defending Israel in international forums, including vetoing one-sided resolutions in 2011, 2006, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1997, and 1995 before the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas the United States recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Israel regarding security assistance, consistent with long-standing support for Israel among successive Administrations and congresses and representing an important United States commitment toward Israel's qualitative military edge;

Whereas on November 29, 2016, the House of Representatives unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 165, expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict;

Whereas on December 23, 2016, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations disregarded House Concurrent Resolution 165 and departed from longstanding United States policy by abstaining and permitting United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 to be adopted under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter;

Whereas the United States' abstention on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 contradicts the Oslo Accords and its associated process that is predicated on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between the parties through direct negotiations;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 claims that "the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace";

Whereas by referring to the "4 June 1967 lines" as the basis for negotiations, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 effectively states that the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, are "occupied territory" thereby equating these sites with outposts in the West Bank that the Israeli government has deemed illegal;

Whereas passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 effectively lends legitimacy to efforts by the Palestinian Authority to impose its own solution through international organizations and through unjustified boycotts or divestment campaigns against Israel by calling "upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this

resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967”, and will require the United States and Israel to take effective action to counteract the potential harmful impact of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334;

Whereas UNSCR 2334 did not directly call upon Palestinian leadership to fulfill their obligations toward negotiations or mention that part of the eventual Palestinian state is currently controlled by Hamas, a designated terrorist organization; and

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 both sought to impose or unduly influence solutions to final status issues, and is biased against Israel: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That —

2               (1) it is the sense of the House of Representa-  
3       tives that—

4               (A) the passage of United Nations Security  
5       Council Resolution 2334 undermined the long-  
6       standing position of the United States to op-  
7       pose and veto United Nations Security Council  
8       resolutions that seek to impose solutions to  
9       final status issues, or are one-sided and anti-  
10      Israel, reversing decades of bipartisan agree-  
11      ment;

12              (B) the passage of United Nations Secu-  
13      rity Council Resolution 2334 undermines the

1 prospect of Israelis and Palestinians resuming  
2 productive, direct negotiations;

3 (C) the passage of United Nations Security  
4 Council Resolution 2334 contributes to the po-  
5 litically motivated acts of boycott, divestment  
6 from, and sanctions against Israel and rep-  
7 represents a concerted effort to extract concessions  
8 from Israel outside of direct negotiations be-  
9 tween the Israelis and Palestinians, which must  
10 be actively rejected;

11 (D) any future measures taken in inter-  
12 national or outside organizations, including the  
13 United Nations Security Council or at the Paris  
14 conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict  
15 scheduled for January 15, 2017, to impose an  
16 agreement, or parameters for an agreement in-  
17 cluding the recognition of a Palestinian state,  
18 will set back the cause of peace, harm the secu-  
19 rity of Israel, run counter to the enduring bi-  
20 partisan consensus on strengthening the United  
21 States-Israel relationship, and weaken support  
22 for such organizations;

23 (E) a durable and sustainable peace agree-  
24 ment between Israel and the Palestinians will  
25 come only through direct bilateral negotiations

1           between the parties resulting in a Jewish,  
2           democratic state living side-by-side next to a de-  
3           militarized Palestinian state in peace and secu-  
4           rity;

5           (F) the United States should work to fa-  
6           cilitate serious, direct negotiations between the  
7           parties without preconditions toward a sustain-  
8           able peace agreement; and

9           (G) the United States Government should  
10          oppose and veto future United Nations Security  
11          Council resolutions that seek to impose solu-  
12          tions to final status issues, or are one-sided and  
13          anti-Israel; and

14          (2) the House of Representatives opposes  
15          United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334  
16          and will work to strengthen the United States-Israel  
17          relationship, and calls for United Nations Security  
18          Council Resolution 2334 to be repealed or fun-  
19          damentally altered so that—

20                 (A) it is no longer one-sided and anti-  
21                 Israel; and

22                 (B) it allows all final status issues toward  
23                 a two-state solution to be resolved through di-  
24                 rect bilateral negotiations between the parties.