

HCS HCR 30 -- ISRAEL

SPONSOR: Plocher

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Public Policy by a vote of 6 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HCR 30.

With this resolution, the General Assembly commends Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States of America and the state of Missouri since 1948. The General Assembly supports Israel's right to exist and recognizes Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. The General Assembly stands in unequivocal support of Israel in its efforts to defend its citizens and eliminate the threats posed by Hamas and other terrorist organization. Missouri further supports Israel's inalienable right to prosecute the war until the threat posed is eradicated. Missouri holds Hamas and other terrorist organizations accountable for all civilian casualties as Israel seeks to eradicate Hamas and the threat it poses to innocent lives. The General Assembly calls on the United States government to continue to stand with the people of Israel in their time of need.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, and the United States must protect it. The supporters also say that Israel and the United States have a historic relationship and partnership. Supporters say that this resolution is important to counter the increase in antisemitism. Supporters also say that Israel has a right to defend itself. This resolution is a way to support Israel after the massacre that took place on October 7, with 1200 Israelis killed and hundreds kidnapped.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Plocher; Pnina Nitsun; Rabbi Yonason Goldson, Coalition For Jewish Values, Missouri Chapter; Ze'ev Smason, Coalition For Jewish Values Missouri; Jill Noble; Hillel Anton; Lois Hogan; Bev Ehlen; Daniel Swindell; Roger Fries; James Conrady; Brian Herstig, Jewish Federation Of St. Louis; Arnie C. Dienoff; Barak Lichtman; Rabbi Ze'ev Smason, Coalition For Jewish Values Missouri; Cheryl

Adelstein, Jewish Community Relations Council; David Schacter; Aharon Katz; Margo Tzadok; Michael Rovinsky; and Bryan Sharp.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the resolution say that Israel is an apartheid state and is not a democracy. The opponents say that this resolution is irresponsible given Israel's killing of almost 30,000 Palestinians, including over 12,000 children, using US taxpayer money. Opponents say that this resolution, by failing to mention the Palestinians killed by Israel and the Israeli occupation of Palestine, dehumanizes the Palestinians. The opponents say that they condemn the violence against Israel on October 7th but say that the conflict predates that event. Opponents pointed to Gaza being called "an open air prison" and "a concentration camp" by international humanitarian organizations and scholars. The opponents say that the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the daily atrocities committed by Israel in occupied Palestine are against International Law, with thousands of Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli prisons for multiple years with no due process. Opponents say that this resolution not only fails to point out these grave injustices, it is making a political and moral decision to side with the oppressor against the oppressed. Opponents say that Missouri should call for a ceasefire to stop the attack on Gaza and oppose this resolution. Opponents say that just as one might stop a friend from wrongdoing, the United States must stop Israel from its wrongdoing.

Testifying in person against the bill were Adriana Darris; Amin Jahromi; Christopher Henry; Dr. Aisha Ahmouda; Fallon Bryant; Kelly Turntine; Kristen Lyle; Lea E Koesterer; Robert Suberi, Veterans For Peace; St. Louis Green Party; Vietnam Veteran; Gloria Michelle Young, Trashpandas; Saqib Ahmed; Tom Abeln; James Pepler; Randall Quisenberry; Robert N. Suberi; Isleen Atallah, Mizzou Students For Justice In Palestine; Arwa Abdelhadi; Jeff Stack, Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation (For); Arla Frantz-Greene; Leor Shomroni; Sasha Zimmel; May Hall; Mark Haim; Ahmad Muraywid; Heather Creamer; Winifred Scott; Rasha Abousalem; and Jae Shepherd.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.