



## 2020 South Dakota Legislature

# House Commemoration 8004

Introduced by: **Representatives** Deutsch, Brunner, Chaffee, Dennert, Finck, Glanzer, Goodwin, Gosch, Lana Greenfield, Hammock, Hansen, Haugaard, Howard, Hunhoff, Kevin Jensen, David Johnson, Koth, Mulally, Herman Otten, Perry, Kent Peterson, Sue Peterson, Pischke, Post, Qualm, Randolph, Reimer, Steele, Weis, Wiese, Willadsen, York, and Zikmund

1    **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Commending the nation of Israel for its cordial**  
 2           **and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the State**  
 3           **of South Dakota.**

4            WHEREAS, Israel has been granted her lands under and through the oldest  
 5            recorded deed, as recorded in the Old Testament scriptures held sacred and revered by  
 6            Jews and Christians alike, as presenting the acts and words of God; and

7            WHEREAS, the claim and presence of the Jewish people in Israel has remained  
 8            constant throughout the past four thousand years of history; and

9            WHEREAS, the legal basis for the establishment of the modern state of Israel was  
 10           a binding resolution under international law, which was unanimously adopted by the  
 11           League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently affirmed by both houses of the United States  
 12           Congress; and

13           WHEREAS, this resolution affirmed the establishment of a national home for the  
 14           Jewish people in the historical region of the land of Israel, including the areas of Judea,  
 15           Samaria, and Jerusalem; and

16           WHEREAS, Article 80 of the United Nations Charter 22 recognized the continued  
 17           validity of the rights granted to states or peoples which already existed under international  
 18           instruments, and therefore the 1922 League of Nations resolution remains valid, and the  
 19           six hundred fifty thousand Jews currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and  
 20           eastern Jerusalem reside there legitimately; and

21           WHEREAS, Israel declared its independence and self-governance on May 14, 1948,  
 22           with the goal of re-establishing its God-given and legally recognized lands as a homeland  
 23           for the Jewish people; and

24           WHEREAS, the United States, having been the first country to recognize Israel as  
 25           an independent nation and as Israel's principal ally, has enjoyed a close and mutually  
 26           beneficial relationship with Israel and her people; and

1           WHEREAS, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism around the world,  
2 including across the United States reflected in official hate crime statistics; and

3           WHEREAS, the international boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement is one  
4 of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and advocating the elimination of the  
5 Jewish State; and

6           WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign  
7 activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased animosity and  
8 intimidation against Jewish students, negatively impacting student programming related  
9 to the State of Israel and politics in the Middle East; and

10           WHEREAS, leaders of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement say their  
11 goal is to eliminate Israel as the home of the Jewish people; and

12           WHEREAS, messaging at anti-Israel rallies has adopted the boycott, divestment,  
13 and sanctions slogan: "from the river to the sea Palestine will be free" which means that  
14 there would be no Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea and that  
15 the State of Israel will cease to exist; and

16           WHEREAS, Israel is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle  
17 East and the values of our two nations are so intertwined that it is impossible to separate  
18 one from the other; and

19           WHEREAS, there are those in the Middle East who have continually sought to  
20 destroy Israel, from the time of its inception as a state, and those same enemies of Israel  
21 also hate, and seek to destroy, the United States; and

22           WHEREAS, the promise of the God of Israel, who is the God stated in our  
23 Constitution, is that He will bless those who bless Israel, and be it known that the State  
24 of South Dakota openly blesses Israel with gratitude for our cordial and mutually beneficial  
25 relations since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year:

26           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the  
27 State of South Dakota, that the Legislature commends Israel for its cordial and mutually  
28 beneficial relationship with the United States and with the State of South Dakota, supports  
29 Israel in its legal, historical, moral, and God-given right of self-governance and self-  
30 defense upon the entirety of its own lands, and recognizes that Israel is neither an  
31 attacking force nor an occupier of the lands of others, and that peace can be afforded the  
32 region only through a whole and united Israel.