December 7, 2011 76 LCR01 – US/Israel

Sponsored By: Aslinn Scott Representative at Large/Treasurer

Abigail Berman Senator/Arts & Sciences Student Government

Authored By: Samuel Lourie President of Christians United for Israel at CU

Joshua Siegel President of Students for Israel at CU

Aslinn Scott Representative at Large/Treasurer

**A Resolution of Support of the US and Israel Relationship**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Resolution History**

This past September the leader of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, read the Palestinian Declaration of Independence at the U.N. Security Counsel meeting in attempt to unilaterally declare Palestinian statehood. Officials from the U.S., Israel, and western European powers have observed that this measure has hurt, and will continue to hurt the negotiation of the peace process between Israeli’s and Palestinian’s. They have further asserted that if such a measure were to pass it would bring great instability to the region. If the declaration were to pass the Israelis would be forced to accept a Palestinian state without any negotiations and discussions of land swaps between the two neighbors. President Obama has declared that he would veto the Unilateral Declaration of Independence of the Palestinians if they were to push for a vote in the Security Counsel. The Dutch, French, German, Greece, Italy, and others have said they are opposed to the Unilateral Declaration of Independence. Were the declaration to pass not only would Israel be forced to give up land without negotiations between the two neighbors, but Israel would also be left with defenseless borders. Were the declaration to pass the two sides could be forced into war in a region of the world that is already violently shaking.

Israel is the closest ally the United States has. No other state has such a similar ideology, shared strategic and tactical interests, and no other state has stood by the United States so closely through the wars of the 20th century as the state of Israel has. This is evidenced by the fact that the voting patterns of the United States and Israel have been virtually identical in the U.N. Multiple times last year President Obama summed up the special relationship to White House gatherings by saying “The U.S. has no better friend in the world than Israel.”

The significance of this relationship is one that is held strongly by the majority of the Americans. The unwavering support of the United States to the state of Israel has been upheld by successive administrations. Additionally, a unique phenomena has taken place in Congress over the decades in which the need to stand with Israel has maintained bipartisan support. This is unheard of in the United States Congress for one issue to have such unwavering support by both liberals and conservatives. Finally, a Gallup survey taken this past February demonstrated that two out of three Americans sympathize with Israel.

Furthermore, according to Near East Report, similar resolutions have been presented and passed in different universities’ student governments across the nation echoing on the magnitude of this relationship shared between the two nations. At the University of Oklahoma, the student government passed a resolution acknowledging the value of foreign aid contribution for essential American allies, including Israel. Another resolution was passed at Indiana University, which acknowledged the significance of America’s strategic union with Israel. The resolution at Indiana University had the support of both College Republicans and College Democrats. Emphasizing this was a bi-partisan effort and a common ground stance for everyone across the political spectrum. Moreover, at Bloomington University a parallel resolution passed that focused on the value of the U.S.-Israel alliance. Finally Arizona State University passed a similar resolution standing in agreement with President Obama’s decision to veto the Palestinian Unilateral Declaration of Independence. Each of these resolutions presented in other student governments not only identifies the coalition between the U.S. and Israel, but acknowledges Israel’s existence as a nation state.

Moreover, the relationship with Israel is not only significant to Americans as a whole and our counterpart student governments, but has also captured the heart of local Coloradans. This past March both houses of the Colorado State Legislature unanimously passed a bill that recognizes Israel as the homeland for the Jewish people, a lone democracy in the volatile Middle East surrounded by neighbors who hate Israel, and recognized a special relationship between the state of Colorado and the nation of Israel.

 The Unilateral Declaration of Independence forces a solution on Israelis and would uproot thousands of Israelis from their homes. When Israel withdrew tens of thousands of its citizens from the Gaza Strip there was nearly a civil war between Israelis in return for these efforts for peace. Hamas, a group determined to destroy Israel, took over the Gaza Strip. The Israelis have reiterated that the only solution to peace is negotiations between the two neighbors. Under this declaration Israel would be forced into a situation in which it would be impossible to defend their borders. The declaration threatens the existence of the state of Israel as Hamas would very quickly spread throughout the new state of Palestine. The IDF estimates it would take at the very most 1 month for Hamas to seize control. Furthermore, to this day Mahmoud Abbas has not publicly acknowledged the right for the Jewish state of Israel to exist. The actions of Mahmoud Abbas are unjust as are the actions and intentions of Hamas.

It is vital that such issues are brought to the forefront of discussion at the University of Colorado at Boulder. This school is one that seeks to teach its students to think critically about issues in the world. Unfortunately most media outlets all too often feed the world with a very slanted anti-Israel narrative. This resolution seeks to give students the opportunity to learn about the issues facing Israel from an objective, rational point of view. This university is also one that is adamant about taking up social justice causes. This resolution therefore seeks to shed light on the security issues facing the state of Israel that are often understated and misrepresented. Additionally, this resolution is not taking a stance on the current relationship that Israel has with Palestine. One outcome that this resolution hopes to promote is an open dialogue and education on the matter concerning Israel and Palestine.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is seeking to transform itself into a “new flagship university” in the 21st century. Part of this bold vision includes promoting diversity, pursuing knowledge in service to Colorado, the nation, and the world, collaborating on solutions to our greatest problems in the arts, sciences, and humanities, and forging new kinds of partnership with government, community, and business. This resolution helps to reach the vision of the University in the area of diversity. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and champions in the arena of plurality and diversity in government and society, shunning any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity. This resolution helps pursue knowledge that serves Colorado, the nation, and the world as it raises awareness about an extremely important global issue to the state, nation, and world. It also offers a collaborative solution to one of the greatest problems in the arts, sciences, and humanities as students want to see the state of Israel continue to exist and defend itself. This resolution would also mark the beginning of new kinds of partnerships that could be forged with government, community, and business. This resolution would resemble a close correlation and connection with legislation passed by the Colorado state government, it would educate the community about the U.S.-Israel relationship and the issues facing it, and it would also strengthen the Resolution of Solidarity passed last semester by the Student For Israel group.

The following resolution passed before the Board of Regents by Students For Israel demonstrates that a large and diverse amount of students at CU Boulder support the U.S.-Israel relationship and the right for Israel to exist and defend her borders. Were the Palestinian Unilateral Declaration of Independent to pass at the U.N., Israel would be unable to defend her borders and no longer able to exist. The students and student leaders of the University of Colorado want to see Israel to be able to defend herself and continue to exist as a nation.

**Students For Israel Resolution of Solidarity:**

Andrew Yoder Danielle Warly Marc Herzberger Grant Carter

Student Body President, Chief of Staff, CUSG President, Legislative Council President, Leeds Council

CUSG CUSG

Brooks Kanski Alexis Scobie Lisa Meleney Andrea Meli

VP-External Affairs CUSG Senator Leeds Council, VP Leeds Council, VP

Jessica Wambsgans Sarah Bowles Joshua Rheins Aslinn Scott

Leeds Council, VP CUSG Student Group Liaison Freshman Council, CUSG ASSG Secretary

Justin Kever Matt Schwartz Jaryd Meenach Jared Voss

President, College Democrats President, College Republicans Inter-Fraternity Council VP Inter-Fraternity Council VP Internal Affairs communications

Michael Heffler Daniel Hanson Anthony Derby David Gillis

Student Ambassador Inter-Fraternity Council VP, Inter-Fraternity Council VP Inter-Fraternity Council

Philanthropy operations and finance Chief Justice

Andrew Bluestein Harrison Mleczko Seth Stewart Parker Sperry

Inter-Fraternity Council Inter-Fraternity Council President, Phi Gamma Delta President, Pi Kappa Phi

Director of Recruitment Director of Athletics

Matthew Nabhan Matt Schnieder Donovan Gibbons Jacob Sablosky

President, Sigma Phi Epsilon President, Sigma Nu President, Phi Kappa Tau President, Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Spencer A. Cummins Taylor Curtis Clay Harris Peter Chase

President, ACACIA President, Phi Kappa Psi President, Alpha Phi Delta President, Pi Kappa Alpha

Max Gulliver Adam Edwards Sam Creamer Tim Gleason

President, Alpha Epsilon Pi President, Zeta Beta Tau Internal VP, Kappa Sigma Sigma Pi

As a student leader at the University of Colorado, I support the U.S.-Israel Relationship

* I support continued investments with companies that do business in Israel
* I maintain a position that Israel has the right to exist and defend its borders

Brittany Marans Emily Booth Claire Harman Carly Coons

President, Sigma Rho Lambda President, Alpha Kappa Psi Delta Sigma Pi President, Hillel Student Board

Zach Silverman Joshua Siegel Leetal Sayegh Daniel Getz

President, Students for Israel President, Students for Israel VP, Students for Israel LGBTQA Students Leader

Samuel Lentz Tyler Williams Katie Lasalle Laura Malauer

Alpha Phi Omega, Exec President, SSDP Vice Chair, Cultural Events Board Cultural Events Board

Speakers coordinator

Perri Chernick Ali Flint Zachary J. Siegel Thomas Gorman

Student Ambassador Student Ambassador Student Ambassador Secretary, Management Futures

Elise Miller Andi Hudler Carolyn Evans Phil Rubinstein

Presidents Leadership Class Presidents Leadership Class Presidents Leadership Class Mile 21 Acapella

Jason Englander Blythe Hawthorne-Lozeaux Ian Solow-Niederman Griffen Kelley

CU Rowing Team Puksta Scholar AEPi, Rush Chair CU Athletics Department

Zachary Pechter David Peurye-Hassong Kieran Dunstan Steven Ramm

Treasure, Zeta Beta Tau Internal VP, Zeta Beta Tau External VP, Zeta Beta Tau Secretary, Zeta Beta Tau

Maxwell Bradford Matthew Cahn Natalya Nilva Rachel Durham

CU Sailing Team Amnesty International CWA Volunteer Globemed

Sweta Adhikari Fletcher Richman Brian Share Amanda Medz

Globemed Engineering Fellow Hillel-Colorado Hillel-Colorado

Daniel Sheman Rachael Baer Steven Kreimendahl Kevin Sternberg

Hillel-Colorado Hillel Student Board Students for Israel Hillel Student Board

Rachael Barbakoff Nicholas Miller Elana Costanza Kailynn Deronde

Hillel Student Board Student Global Denta Brigades Timmy Foundation

Kellie Hirce Johanna Blumenthal Sthphanie Skinas Kobin Jasmin

Timmy Foundation ACLU Christianity Explored Gymnastics Club

Leonardo Labriola Jacki Altman Sharon Simon-Tov Cera Merrick

College Republicans Delta Delta Dela Executive Students for Israel Students for Israel

Jackson Wessells Alex Gelenter Wesley Friednash Jacob Spieman

Students for Israel Chabad Student Aepi Aepi

Jacob Bornstein Matthew Paley Zach Levin Alec Nyber

Resident Hall Association Hillel Student Board House Manager, Alpha Epsilon Pi Treasurer, Alpha Epsilon Pi

Shea Kutner Katie Guetz Chelsea Miller Esther Marcus

Sigma Pi Philanthropy Board Hillel Hillel Sigma Rho Lambda

Lily Ganz Shelby London Mollie White Adam Licht

Students for Israel Sigma Rho Lambda Sigma Rho Lambda Alpha Epsilon Pi

Matt Klasco Caleb Donian Leah Reynolds Alyssa Anderson

Students for Israel Sentinel, Alpha Epsilon Pi Delegate-Panhellenic Council VP-Fraternity Relations

Katherine Miller Robin Gresko Jessica Romero Andrea Meli

Panhel-New Members Education President-Alpha Chi Omega Panhellinic Council-Alpha Delta Chi Alpha Phi-Vice President

Mackenzie Mackay Meghan Bartine Shelby Vermelyea Jessica Carver

VP Recruitment-Alpha Phi VP-Education Kappa Alpha Theata Alpha Phi-New Members Education President-Alpha Phi

Sara Cook Nikki Comer Hannah Flink Brie Strimon

VP Marketing-Alpha Phi Director of Administration-Alpha Phi Red Dress Chair-Alpha Phi VP programming-Alpha Phi

**Resolution Summary:**

Therefore let it be resolved by the Colorado University Student Government that the U.S.-Israel relationship should be maintained and strengthened according to the shared interests of both states.

Let it be further resolved by CUSG that the Colorado University Student Government that this resolution is not advocating against Palestine nor any student, community member, or administration who believes in Palestine’s right to exist.

Let it be further resolved by CUSG that the Colorado University Student Government will stand with its sister student governments across the country to support the U.S. - Israel relationship.

Let it be further resolved by the CUSG that the University of Colorado at Boulder will stand with President Obama’s decision to veto the Unilateral Declaration of Independence should the Palestine push for a vote in the U.N. Security Counsel.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student, THAT:

**Section 1:** The University of Colorado Student Government Legislative Council hereby supports the US-Israeli Relationship.

**Section 2:** Upon passage of this resolution Christians United for Israel will send this to the local news outlets and seek to further engage the student body about the US-Israel relationship.

**Section 3:** This Resolution takes effect upon final passage and upon obtaining the signatures of the CUSG Legislative Council President and the Executives.

**Vote Count**

**01/26/2012 Failed on 1st reading 1-13-2**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Yoder Brian Taylor

President Legislative Council President

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Carly Robinson Brooks Kanski

Vice President – Internal Affairs Vice President – External Affairs