

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

WHEREAS, THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF INCREASING INCIDENTS AND EXPRESSIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; AND

WHEREAS, IN APRIL 2014, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE RELEASED THE INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT RECOGNIZING THAT ANTI-SEMITISM CONTINUES TO BE PREVALENT INTERNATIONALLY; AND

WHEREAS, ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS COMMITTED AND RECORDED IN 2014 INCLUDE MURDERS, VIOLENT ATTACKS AND DEATH THREATS AGAINST JEWS, ARSON, GRAFFITI AND PROPERTY DESECRATION AND MURDERS AT JEWISH CEMETERIES, PLACES OF WORSHIP, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS; AND

WHEREAS, SUCH ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS ALSO EXTEND TO SOCCER STADIUMS, THE INTERNET, EDITORIAL CARTOONS AND THE USE OF NAZI SALUTES, LEADING MANY JEWISH INDIVIDUALS TO CONCEAL THEIR RELIGIOUS IDENTITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE RECENT TERROR ATTACK AT A KOSHER SUPERMARKET IN PARIS, FRANCE AND A MOUNTING SENSE OF INSECURITY AMONG FRANCE'S JEWS REMINDS US OF THE URGENT NEED FOR A COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS AND CONFRONT ANTI-SEMITISM; AND

WHEREAS, THE GOVERNMENTS IN FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE 4 COUNTRIES WHERE THE MAJORITY OF ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN EUROPE, HAVE STRONGLY CONDEMNED ANTI-SEMITISM AS UNACCEPTABLE IN EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND HAVE ALL MADE

CLEAR STATEMENTS THAT SUCH ATTACKS ON THEIR JEWISH COMMUNITIES ARE INTOLERABLE; AND

WHEREAS, ANTI-SEMITIC IMAGERY AND COMPARISONS OF JEWS AND ISRAEL TO NAZIS HAVE BEEN ON DISPLAY AT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL'S ACTIONS IN GAZA, THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HAS A RICH HISTORY OF TOLERANCE TO ALL FAITHS AND RELIGIONS; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS PLAYED AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN COUNTERACTING THE RESURGENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM WORLDWIDE AND HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM THROUGH ITS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES; AND

WHEREAS, THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE JOINS WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE IN UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND REJECTING ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY ANTI-JEWISH HATRED OR VIOLENT ATTACKS AS AN ACCEPTABLE EXPRESSION OF DISAPPROVAL OR FRUSTRATION OVER POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR ELSEWHERE; AND

WHEREAS, THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT APPLAUDS THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE FOREIGN LEADERS WHO HAVE CONDEMNED ANTI-

SEMITIC ACTS AND CALLS ON THOSE WHO HAVE YET TO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM IN THEIR COUNTRIES TO DO SO; AND

WHEREAS, THE VERY RECENT KILLINGS OF A DANISH FILM DIRECTOR AND A JEWISH GUARD IN COPENHAGEN, ALONG WITH THE VANDALISM OF A JEWISH CEMETERY IN EASTERN FRANCE, HAVE GIVEN RISE TO CONCERNS ABOUT A RISE OF TERRORISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM ACROSS THE CONTINENT; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE SUPPORT EXPANDED ANTI-BIAS AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO INCREASE AWARENESS, COUNTER PREJUDICE AND ENHANCE EFFORTS TO TEACH THE UNIVERSAL LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND TO EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS ELECTED FROM THIS STATE.