

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1729

A RESOLUTION condemning the October 7 attacks on the State of Israel and reaffirming Kansas' support and cooperation with the State of Israel.

WHEREAS, Israel was founded following the killing of 6,000,000 Jewish people during the horror of the Holocaust and World War II; and

WHEREAS, On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched air, ground and sea strikes on Israel, targeting Israel's civilian population; and

WHEREAS, The United States has considered Hamas to be a terrorist organization since 1997; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has murdered, burned, raped, beheaded and disfigured over 1,400 Israelis, including hundreds of women, children and elderly, throughout southern Israel while concurrently launching indiscriminate rocket attacks across the entirety of Israel; and

WHEREAS, Hamas deliberately and systematically used sexual violence against women as a weapon; and

WHEREAS, American citizens were among those murdered on October 7; and

WHEREAS, The attacks on October 7 resulted in the deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust and the deadliest day on Israeli soil since the Yom Kippur war in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Over 240 hostages were taken from Israel into Gaza, including over 100 women, children and elderly; and

WHEREAS, The hostages taken included Americans and citizens from around the world; and

WHEREAS, The ages of hostages range from nine months old to 86 years old and include over 30 hostages under the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, Over half of the hostages taken on October 7 remain unaccounted for with no end to their captivity in sight; and

WHEREAS, Hamas' actions have resulted in a 400% increase in antisemitism nationally, including multiple incidents at the University of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Local Jewish communities have had to increase their security, similar to the security presence required after the 2014 antisemitic attacks in Overland Park; and

WHEREAS, The people of Kansas share a connection with the people of Israel and view Israel as a trusted ally: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we condemn the unprovoked attacks on the State of Israel and reaffirm Kansas' support and cooperation with the State of Israel; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we demand the unconditional safe return of the hostages; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we unequivocally support Israel's right to exist, defend itself and protect its citizens from terrorism and harm; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we place the blame for all violence that occurred on October 7 and thereafter on Hamas, who in their founding charter have stated their intent to exterminate both Israel and the Jewish people at any cost; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we reject all forms of antisemitism, including threats against Jewish people and Jewish institutions; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Consul General Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Director of AJC/JCRB Kansas City, Gavriela Geller, Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City president and CEO, Jay Lewis and David Soffer.

Senate Resolution No. 1729 was sponsored by Senators Erickson, Alley, Baumgardner, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Claeys, Corson, Dietrich, Fagg, Kerschen, Kloos, Longbine, Masterson, McGinn, Peck, Petersen, Ryckman, Shallenburger, Steffen, Straub, Thompson, Tyson and Wilborn.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*