



Steadfast Champion of State of Israel

On January 23, 2018 Chairman Matt Caldwell joined Representative Jared Moskowitz and Representative Randy Fine in a media availability to discuss the pro-Israel legislation heard this session, including HB 545, Prohibition against contacting with scrutinized companies that support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, and HB 1027, which supports the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the relocation of the U.S. Embassy. Following the press conference, both bills passed the Florida House.

Caldwell kicked off the press conference by saying, “The Florida House and Legislature has a history of taking strong stands on issues of international importance that Florida should be the leader on. This week, we are going to address two bills that deal with Israel.”

Representative Fine, the sponsor of HB 545, said, “I want to recognize the courage of both Speaker Corcoran and Representative Caldwell for taking on these pieces of legislation. They have both been incredibly helpful and supportive of me, and encouraging me to do it. If these bills become law, it will be in no small part because of the two of them.”

Representative Moskowitz, the sponsor of HB 1027, said, “I want to thank the gentlemen behind me [Speaker Corcoran and Representative Caldwell] for their support on this resolution.”

Bills regarding Israel that Representative Caldwell supported:

Regular Session 2018

HB 545 passed the House on January 31, 2018, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 1, 2018. Prohibits a company that is on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List (Israel List) or that is engaged in a boycott of Israel from bidding on, submitting a proposal for, or entering into or renewing a contract with an agency or local governmental entity for goods or services of any amount. A company that submits a bid or proposal for or enters into or renews such a contract must certify that the company is not participating in a boycott of Israel. The bill was approved by the Governor on March 21, 2018, ch. 2018-52, L.O.F., and became effective on July 1, 2018.



(Regular Session 2018 continued)

HB 1027 passed the House and was adopted on January 31, 2018. The bill recognizes the historical, religious, and cultural importance of Jerusalem, supports recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and relocation of U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and applauds the Federal Government for recognizing Jerusalem as capital of Israel. The bill was adopted by the House on January 31, 2018.

Regular Session 2017

HR 281 passed the House on March 29, 2017. The bill opposes United Nations Security Council 2334 – which calls Israel an “occupying power” under the Fourth Geneva Convention – and requests its repeal or fundamental alteration.

HB 4029 was adopted July 1, 2017. The bill provides an appropriation for the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator.

Regular Session 2016

CS/CS/SB 86 became effective March 10, 2016. The requires the State Board of Administration to identify all companies that are boycotting Israel or are engaged in a boycott of Israel in which the public fund owns direct or indirect holdings by a specified date; requires the public fund to create and maintain the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List that names all such companies; and prohibits a state agency or local governmental entity from contracting for goods and services that exceed \$1 million, if the company has been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List.

HR 1001 was adopted on March 2, 2016. The bill expresses opposition to anti-Jewish and anti-Israel movements known as Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns.