



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AGAINST ISRAEL

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Thursday, February 4, 2016) – Speaker of the House David Gowan and Representative Paul Boyer today introduced HB2617, a bipartisan bill that would prohibit the investment of state funds in companies that openly participate in discriminatory practices against Israel and require parties contracting with the state government to certify that they do not participate in these prejudice-based actions.

Speaker David Gowan stated, “Increasingly anti-Israel sentiments are becoming anti-Semitic. It is critical that we confront hatred at all levels and send a message that Arizona will stand against any form of discrimination, including the unjust singling out of the State of Israel.”

HB2617 will target companies engaging in actions that are politically motivated and intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or otherwise limit commercial relations with Israel, its products, or partners. The bill will also establish a State Investment Policy Board to review and identify companies that use discriminatory practices against Israel.

This type of bill has seen nationwide support and adoption. South Carolina and Illinois have already adopted similar legislation with overwhelming support. New York, Ohio, Texas, and Florida are also drafting similar legislation. Arizona will help pioneer these efforts.

Another sponsor of the legislation Representative Paul Boyer (R-Phoenix) said, “I stand proudly and publicly with Israel against those who would seek to delegitimize her. What detractors couldn’t do militarily, they’re now trying to do economically, which would harm the only democracy in the Middle East who stands shoulder to shoulder with the United States against all of our enemies.”

“This piece of legislation voices a strong stance that no economic or political actions based on religion or ethnicity, against Israel will be allowed in Arizona,” added Representative Rebecca Rios (D-Phoenix).

Speaker David Gowan continued, “Israel is an ally and a friend known for its dynamic and innovative approach in many business sectors. We must continue to conduct in trade that does not make discriminatory decisions and helps foster an environment of commercial soundness.”

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