

Israel

Combat the Delegitimization of Israel

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a global campaign to isolate Israel through economic, cultural, and political pressure. This politically motivated movement unfairly compares Israel to genocidal regimes in an attempt to undermine the legitimacy of the State of Israel. While BDS advocates claim to be seeking a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the movement undermines the internationally-supported peace process and decreases chances for a negotiated two-state outcome.

The Jewish community relations field has worked tirelessly to deter BDS from taking hold in the United States and has supported more than 22 states that have passed legislation. JCPA believes these bills send a strong message regarding Congress' commitment to opposing BDS and supporting the ideals of a two-state outcome to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

- **Cosponsor the “Combating BDS Act of 2017” (S.170/H.R. 2856) to support state actions against BDS.** This bill affirms the authority of state and local governments to divest from entities engaged in BDS activities against Israel, as well as to restrict their contracting with such entities.
 - **State and local governments must be allowed to make decisions about the contents of their investment portfolios and the discriminatory actions of their vendors.** This is important because, if passed, the bill would protect state and local governments from lawsuits contending they are causing undue burden or discrimination against interstate or foreign commerce.
 - **States should be lauded for taking active steps to combat the destructive effects of the BDS movement.**
- **Cosponsor the “Israel Anti-Boycott Act” (S.720).** This bill would expand existing U.S. anti-boycott laws to include international governmental organizations like the United Nations and the European Union.
 - **Congress and the Executive branch have long combatted such attacks on Israel.** This includes 1979 legislation that prohibits U.S. companies from complying with unsanctioned foreign boycotts imposed by foreign governments as a condition of doing business. The new bill would expand this prohibition to also include boycotts imposed by international government organizations.
- **Unilateral attempts to force negotiations are counterproductive.** These bills would help promote a strong, vibrant Israel that is committed to peace. The U.S. should continue to pursue a peaceful outcome to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict through diplomacy. Peace and security based on two independent, democratic, and economically-viable states coexisting side-by-side can only be achieved through direct negotiations.