

## Fight 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 movement unfairly compares Israel to genocidal regimes in an attempt to undermine the Israel's legitimacy. 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 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.

- **Members of Congress should cosponsor the “Israel Anti-Boycott Act” (S. 720/H.R. 1697), which would expand existing U.S. anti-boycott regulations to include boycotts instituted by international governmental organizations like the United Nations and the European Union.** This bill would help discourage them from taking steps to unfairly single out and economically isolate Israel.
- **Passage of the legislation is now more critical than ever.** Evidence suggests that the U.N. Human Rights Council intends to promote new anti-Israel boycott activity. In January 2018, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that it was investigating more than 200 companies—including 22 American companies—for inappropriate activities in the “Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.” The report also threatened action against the companies even though their activity complies with U.S. law.
- **This bill will protect American companies.** In March 2016, the U.N. Human Rights Council passed a resolution to establish a “blacklist” of companies operating or investing, directly or indirectly, beyond the “Green Line,” including in East Jerusalem. Drafts of the blacklist include American companies, such as AirBNB, Caterpillar, Remax.
- **The final bill states that only commercial speech made in an official capacity can be the basis for investigations and enforcement of the law; individual speech made in a personal capacity is protected.** Both the Senate and House versions of the bill have been significantly revised to address First Amendment concerns raised by previous drafts.
- **The House Foreign Affairs Committee has already unanimously passed H.R. 1697, which now awaits a vote by the full House.**

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*The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the hub of the Jewish community relations network, representing over 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 16 national Jewish agencies. Together our network builds consensus on behalf of the entire Jewish community to promote a just and pluralistic American society, advocate for human rights around the world, and support Israel's quest for peace and security.*