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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Hamas was founded with the stated goal of  
3 destroying the State of Israel; and

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WHEREAS, Hamas has been designated by the United States  
5 Secretary of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization; and

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WHEREAS, Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to  
7 exist, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements  
8 between Israel and the Palestinians; and

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WHEREAS, Hamas has launched thousands of rockets and  
10 missiles since Israel dismantled settlements and withdrew from  
11 Gaza in 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Terrorists in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip  
13 have fired approximately 900 rockets and missile shells into  
14 Israel this year, an increase from roughly 675 attacks in 2011  
15 and 350 in 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Hamas has increased the range of its rockets,  
17 reportedly with support from Iran and others; these rockets put  
18 additional numbers of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from  
19 Gaza; and

1           WHEREAS, There are many public and private connections  
2 between the State of Illinois and the State of Israel and a  
3 desire to deepen and expand mutual opportunities; and

4           WHEREAS, On November 14, 2012, President Barack Obama  
5 condemned the rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and reiterated  
6 Israel's right to self-defense; and

7           WHEREAS, Israel, a fellow democracy, has an inherent right  
8 to self defense in the face of terrorist attacks; therefore, be  
9 it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we express our  
12 unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as  
13 a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders and recognize  
14 and strongly support its inherent right to act in self-defense  
15 to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism; and be it  
16 further

17           RESOLVED, That we state our unequivocal belief that Hamas  
18 must end Gaza-linked terrorist rocket and missile attacks  
19 against Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce  
20 violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between  
21 Israel and the Palestinians; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge the United Nations Security Council  
2           to condemn the recent spike in Gaza-linked terrorist missile  
3           attacks against Israel, which risk causing civilian casualties  
4           in both Israel and Gaza; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That we encourage the President to continue to  
6           work diplomatically with the international community to  
7           prevent Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist organizations  
8           from retaining or rebuilding the capability to launch rockets  
9           and missiles against Israel.