

**Resolution in Support of the Michigan Democratic Party's Commitment to Israeli Palestinian Peace and Opposition to Occupation, Settlement Expansion, and Unilateral Annexation of Territory in the West Bank**

WHEREAS the Democratic Party, in its national platforms, has repeatedly expressed its commitment to the security of the state of Israel, and called on the United States and its partners to isolate organizations and nations that seek its destruction and practice terrorism, positions that we wish to see reaffirmed;

WHEREAS the Trump administration upends decades of bipartisan support for the two-state solution, and the Israeli government accelerates settlement expansion and veers towards annexation in the West Bank, a peaceful two-state resolution is threatened;

WHEREAS the U.S. State Department's 1978 opinion that defined Israeli settlements in the West Bank as illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention was reversed by the Trump administration on November 18, 2019 and in response, on November 21, 2019, 107 members of Congress wrote to the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to express their strong opposition to the State Department's decision to consider Israeli settlements legal since this decision greenlights annexation and threatens the two-state solution;

WHEREAS on December 6, 2019, the United States House of Representatives passed H. Res. 326 with 192 cosponsors including 6 representatives from Michigan, which explicitly supports a two-state solution, opposes settlement expansion and draws a red line against unilateral annexation of West Bank territory, and recognizes that roadblocks to a peace agreement "pose a threat to the ability to maintain a Jewish and democratic state of Israel and the establishment of a viable, democratic Palestinian state";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Democratic Party supports both a commitment to Israelis and Palestinians right to govern themselves each in their own viable states, and opposes the occupation, settlement expansion, and unilateral annexation of territory in the West Bank by Israel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be sent to the Chair and Co-Chair of the Democratic National Committee, members of the Michigan DNC delegation and Michigan's Democratic Party Chair and Co-Chairs.

*Passed by the Washtenaw County Democratic Party Executive Committee on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.*

References:

1. UN Security Council, “Special Coordinator Reports Largest Expansion of West Bank Settlements in 2 Years” (June 20, 2019),  
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13853.doc.htm>
2. David M. Halbfinger, “Netanyahu, Facing Tough Israel Election, Pledges to Annex a Third of West Bank,” New York Times, (September 23, 2019)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/10/world/middleeast/netanyahu-israel-west-bank.html>
3. Letter of the State Department Legal Advisor, Mr. Herbert J. Hansell, Concerning the Legality of Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories of 21 April 1978,  
[https://www.hlrn.org/img/documents/USSDLegalAdvisorHansell\\_ltr.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org/img/documents/USSDLegalAdvisorHansell_ltr.pdf)
4. The United States Congress, “Letter to the Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State”  
<https://andylevin.house.gov/media/press-releases/breaking-107-house-democrats-rebuke-state-department-reversal-israeli>
5. The United States Congress, “H. Res. 326: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution,” (April 25, 2019)  
<https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres326/BILLS-116hres326rh.pdf>