

Take Action: Protect Campus Activism

Call on the California Senate to amend or reject [SCR 35](#), which perpetuates the conflation of anti-Semitism and protected free speech critical of Israel.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 35](#) will be heard this Wednesday, April 29, by the Senate Education Committee. The resolution silences advocacy for Palestinian rights on California campuses by using a definition of anti-Semitism that includes criticism of Israel.

[For more information on what's wrong with SCR 35, please see this letter from civil rights organizations.](#)

Take Action: call the senators listed below and address the following points:

- **"We applaud the Senate's efforts to confront racism and bigotry** on college campuses, including anti-Semitism. However,"
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- **"SCR 35 as currently written is unduly vague"**: it calls on the Senate to "condemn any act of anti-Semitism augmenting education programs" at publicly funded schools in California. It is unclear what this means, but we believe it is meant to have a chilling effect on protected speech. **The Senate Education Committee should delete or clarify and define this clause in a way that ensures it will not chill free speech or academic freedom.**
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- **"The resolution reinforces a false characterization of the problem of anti-Semitism on California's campuses."** While there have been incidents of anti-Semitism on university campuses this resolution fails to clearly distinguish between anti-Semitism and criticism of Israel. This only muddies the waters and makes it more difficult to recognize and confront real anti-Semitism. **The resolution should be amended to clearly state that the intent is not to chill protected political expression.**
- **"The resolution refers to an over-broad definition of anti-Semitism by the U.S. State Department."** The State Department's full definition lists the widely-criticized "3 D's" of "anti-Semitism related to Israel": Delegitimization, Demonization, and applying a Double standard. This definition is not in use domestically in the United States because it would violate the First Amendment. **We call on the Senate to replace the reference to the State Department definition of anti-Semitism with a standard dictionary definition.**
- **If you're a campus community member** whose political speech is threatened by this resolution, say so!

Please contact the following senators with your concerns, or any of the senators on the Education Committee, including:

Senate Education Committee Staff Director Kathleen Chavira, (916) 651-4105, Kathleen.chavira@sen.ca.gov

Senate Education Committee Chair Carol Liu, (916) 651-4025

Vice-Chair Senator Sharon Runner: (916) 651-4021, or comment at: <http://sd25.senate.ca.gov/contact>

Berkeley Senator Loni Hancock – (916) 651-4009, or comment at: <http://sd09.senate.ca.gov/contact>

If your senator is on the committee, definitely contact her/him. The full committee membership list is at: <http://sedn.senate.ca.gov/committeehome>