# Forcing PERA into Foreign Affairs

VOTE NO!

HB 16-1284

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| Jewish Voice for Peace | **2/26/2016** |  |

# The BDS Movement

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BDS is a grassroots, Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality, inspired by Gandhi, US Civil Rights and South African anti-Apartheid movements.

BDS is necessary because Israeli leaders have made it clear they will not end their occupation of Palestinian lands or grant Palestinians their freedom and rights without outside pressure.

Public opinion shows that [49%](http://sadat.umd.edu/PPT.pdf) of Democrats support imposing economic sanctions or more serious action against Israel over settlement construction and that there is growing criticism over Israel’s policies among all American constituents.

By passing this bill, PERA would be forced into extra work on their end and to take a stance on a foreign policy issue which has no affect on them. The board of PERA is opposed to these terms. Furthermore, this bill offers no benefits to Colorado constituents and many are opposed to it.

# The Supporters’ Argument

Why They’re Wrong

What the drafters of HB 16-1284 are really trying to do is demonize the Palestinian-led BDS movement which calls for Israel to grant equal rights to Palestinians, no more, no less.

If anything, Israel is denigrating itself in public opinion through its unjust policies towards the Palestinians: construction of illegal settlements, the destruction of Palestinian homes and farmland, and a political and legal system that treats Palestinians and Jewish Israelis unequally.

BDS has no position on a two state vs. one state solution; it is peacefully calling for Israel to respect Palestinian human rights. The hope is that economic pressure will be a wake-up call for Israel to begin fair negotiations by ceasing settlement expansion.