



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION



Jewish Federation[®]
OF MADISON

CONTACT:

Elana Kahn

Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

414-403-3705 (cell)

elanak@milwaukeejewish.org

WISCONSIN JEWISH FEDERATIONS' STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILLS

March 22, 2018 – The Milwaukee Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Madison thank the Wisconsin legislature for bipartisan passage of Assembly Bill 553/Senate Bill 450, which will outlaw and condemn discrimination against Israel and Israelis. This follows Gov. Scott Walker's Executive Order #261 last October and we look forward to his signing this bill into law.

This law prohibits the state from entering into contracts with companies that boycott Israel. The bill received broad bipartisan support in the legislature.

"We know that the ultimate goal of boycotting Israel is not to promote peace and justice, nor to bring Israelis and Palestinians closer to a solution, but to sow division, shut down exchanges and cooperation, and ultimately to challenge Israel's legitimacy," said Hannah Rosenthal, CEO of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

"This bill makes clear that Wisconsin will not be complicit in discrimination against Israelis, or any other people based on national origin," said Rabbi Paula Winnig, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Madison.

"We thank all the state legislators for their support of this important issue," said Michael Blumenfeld, director of the Wisconsin Jewish Conference. "We are very pleased that this bill passed both houses of the legislature on a voice vote thanks to the strong leadership of the bill's author's, Senator Leah Vukmir and Representative Dale Kooyenga.

The bill protects Wisconsin's economy from efforts to restrict trade with Israel, efforts which are being promoted by the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS). It affirms Wisconsin's bipartisan economic, business and cultural relationship with Israel.

###