

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO

President of the Senate



PAUL RENNER

Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Florida Legislature Stands with Israel

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (October 18, 2023) — Florida House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast) was joined today by Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) and Members of the Florida House and Senate to stand united in support of the Israeli people and vehemently condemn the atrocities committed by Hamas. The Speaker and Senate President issued a joint proclamation expressing support for the State of Israel and condemning the Hamas terror attack.

“Recent attacks by Hamas against innocent Israelis and Americans abroad are indefensible and require a forceful response,” said Speaker Renner. “Today, Florida reaffirms our strong relationship with Israel. If you stand for freedom, if you stand for peace, you should stand with Israel and with Florida’s Jewish community.”

“Florida has a very special relationship with Israel. While we cherish the alliance between our governments, we also recognize the bonds of family and friendship that link so many Floridians to the Israeli people,” Senate President Kathleen Passidomo said. “We are always proud to stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters and to speak out against not only the horrific terror attacks in Israel, but also the all-too-frequent acts of anti-Semitism and hatred we see here in our own country. Florida is no place for anti-Semitism, hatred, or violence of any kind. We condemn these acts, and we pray for Israeli victory, and for peace.”

“As a proud Jewish American, and 1 of only 3 Jewish members of the Florida Senate, I watched – as all humans did – the terror Hamas has unleashed on Israel with absolute devastation and horror,” Senate Democratic Leader Lauren Book said. “And as we mourn these tremendous

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losses, we will not be silent. The Jewish nation and Israeli people will not be defeated by terrorists with hate in their hearts. Yesterday, today, and for all time, we stand with Israel. Am Yisrael chai.”

Representative Randy Fine (R-Brevard) added, “The attack in Israel was not just an attack on a country, though it certainly was that. There are 1,300 meaningless tragedies to prove it. It was not just an attack on my people, the Jewish people, though it also was that. It was an attack against the very idea of humanity itself. Today, the Florida Legislature unambiguously stands with Israel. And today, we also stand with the Jews of Florida, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Christians descended from them, too. We will win this battle together.”

A copy of the joint proclamation issued today by President Passidomo and Speaker Renner is attached.

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President and Speaker's Proclamation

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A Proclamation expressing support for the State of Israel and condemning the Hamas terror attack,

WHEREAS, beginning on October 7, 2023, Hamas attacked the State of Israel, raping, torturing, and killing over 1,000 innocent persons, including Israelis, Americans, and other nationals, among whom were babies, young children, and the elderly, while indiscriminately launching over 5,000 rockets at private homes, schools, and hospitals and taking more than 150 persons hostage, and

WHEREAS, the United States also suffered losses senselessly as more than 30 Americans were brutally murdered, and at least 20 more are missing or have been taken hostage, and

WHEREAS, Hamas and the Iranian regime has called for the deaths of Israelis, Americans, Jews, and Christians around the world, and

WHEREAS, the Iranian regime provides financial and logistical support to terrorist groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah, and has praised these unconscionable atrocities committed against innocent civilians, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes the right and obligation of the State of Israel to defend itself and to exist as a sovereign and independent nation, with the full rights and privileges afforded to all nations under international law, and

WHEREAS, Florida prays for the people of the State of Israel and all those affected by this unjustified and heinous attack, NOW, THEREFORE,

We, Kathleen Passidomo, President of the Florida Senate, and Paul Renner, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, as the elected presiding officers do hereby:

- (1) Condemn the unprovoked and barbaric attacks by Hamas against Israel, its citizens, and Americans.*
- (2) Unequivocally support the right of the State of Israel to exist as a sovereign and independent nation.*
- (3) Support the right of the State of Israel to defend itself and protect its citizens from indiscriminate violence and terrorism.*
- (4) Demand the immediate end to any financial support, whether directly or indirectly, to the Iranian regime, Hamas, Hezbollah, or any other entity that publicly supports these attacks.*

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, a copy of this proclamation, be presented to the President of the United States, each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and the Ambassador of the State of Israel to the United States as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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Kathleen Passidomo, President
The Florida Senate


Paul Renner, Speaker
The Florida House of Representatives

