WHEREAS, all forms of bigotry—anti-Semitism, Islamaphobia, racism, sexism, and other hatred for people based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, disability, or sexual orientation—are intolerable and incongruent with the aspirational vision of the United States of America as a global leader among nations promoting liberty, respect, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, all residents of Missouri and the United States have among their constitutional rights the right to practice their own religion and to free speech, including the right to boycott, and these rights are vital components of the democratic pantheon that is the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, boycotts have played a strategically significant and celebrated role in United States history, utilized by individuals with grievances against government, such as the colonial boycotts of British tea and the Montgomery bus boycott; and

WHEREAS, criticism of a nation by individuals, including as a nonviolent citizens' boycott, does not constitute bigotry against the citizens of that nation. Rather, the boycott of a nation is means of encouraging the government of the nation to modify its policies and practices to uphold the inalienable human rights of all people:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby affirm all people are equally precious and should not be subjected to bigotry or hatred because of their religion, ethnicity, nationality, disability, or sexual orientation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the general assembly reaffirms that the government of Missouri is guided by the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, including the assertion that all people have the constitutional right to boycott any entity when they have conscientious concerns with the entity's policies or actions; and that the government
of the State of Missouri shall not punish individuals by denying them a state contract for exercising their constitutional right to boycott; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Governor.