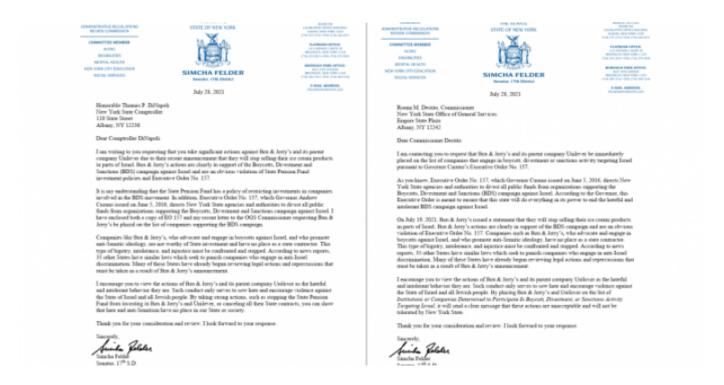


Fighting BDS

SIMCHA FELDER July 28, 2021



Senator Felder called on NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and NYS Attorney General Tish James to uphold & enforce Executive Order 157, prohibiting State agencies from supporting anti-semitic BDS campaign.

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July 28, 2021

Honorable Letitia James New York State Attorney General The Capitol Albany, NY 12224 Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli New York State Comptroller 110 State Street Albany, NY 12236

Dear Attorney General James and Comptroller DiNapoli:

I am writing to you to request an opinion whether a resolution recently passed by PSC-CUNY in support of the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS) against Israel, runs afoul of Governor Cusmo's Executive Order No. 15.7 if this resolution does violate State policy, as it appears to me it does, what actions and repercussions must the State take as a consequence of this resolution?

According to Executive Order No. 157, which Governor Andrew Cuomo issued on June 5, 2016, New York State agencies and authorities are directed to divest all public funds from organizations supporting the Boycotts, Diversiment and Sanctinos campaing against Israel. According to the Governor, this Executive Order (EO) is meant to ensure that this state will do everything in its power to end the hateful and intolerant BDS campaign against Israel. Enclosed please find the EO.

On June 10, 2021, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) union representing faculty and staff at the City University of New York (CUNY) passed a one-sided resolution condemning Israel and sharing support for the BDS movement. According to most sperts, at least 30 CUNY professors have resigned from the union in protest of this resolution and many others are considering resigning. I have enclosed the resolution for your review.

This anti-Semitic resolution comes at a time when anti-Semitissu and hate crimes of all kinds have been on the rise. In 20,0, anti-Semitic acts were near historic highs with 2,0.4 such cases reported across our nation, according to the Anti-Defantion League. In fact, FBH Hate Crime Statistics Report reveal that Jews are at least three times more likely to experience a later crime than any other religious group in America. Jewshift factly and students at CUNY schools are increasingly fearing for their safety and believe their professors simply do not case.

Boycotting Israel serves only to undermine the legitimacy of its multi-ethnic democracy, oppose peace and promote late. Those who advocate and engage in boycotts against Israel, and who promote anti-Semitic ideology, have no place in New York State. Bigotry, intolerance, and musicie must be confronted and stopped.

I appreciate your close review of this important issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely.

Suila Pelaler