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## **Bay Area Jewish Community Disappointed in ASUC President Decision not to Veto BDS Bill**

### *Statement from the Jewish Community Relations Council and the American Jewish Committee*

**San Francisco** - We are extremely disappointed to hear of ASUC Berkeley President Connor Landgraf's decision not to veto Bill SB160, a hateful bill unjustly calling for divestment from Israel. The bill is as harmful as it is false, and will only entrench divisiveness and alienation at UC Berkeley.

"Although we are dismayed by President Landgraf's decision, we could not be prouder of our community and their tremendous efforts, first in attempting to block the bill from passing, and later in pushing to have the bill overturned," stated Abby Porth, Associate Executive Director of the JCRC.

Jewish students from across the political spectrum united and put differences aside in a valiant attempt to block this destructive bill. These efforts did not go unthanked or unnoticed. The vote was incredibly close, with 9 opposing the bill and 11 in favor. This is in stark contrast with a similar bill three years ago, which passed with 16 in favor of divestment, and a mere 4 against.

The faculty of UC Berkeley deserves accolades as well. Thirty-six faculty members signed and submitted a letter opposing the divestment bill. Three years ago there was no such memorandum.

We also commend the courage and fortitude of UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, who rejected the bill the day after its passage, saying the ASUC vote "will not change investment policy established by the Regents of the University of California. In addition, it is my personal opinion that targeting a single nation or state in this highly complex world is not appropriate and does little to advance the cause of peace and coexistence."

As we move forward from this disappointing decision, we remain united in our determination to combat efforts to delegitimize or divest from Israel and will continue to work to promote honest dialogue and debate in our community and beyond.

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The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is the central public affairs and community arm of the organized Jewish community. Representing synagogues and Jewish institutions throughout the Bay Area, JCRC promotes a just society and secure Jewish future.

For more than 100 years, American Jewish Committee (AJC) has sought to advance the peace and security of the Jewish people around the world. Through high-level diplomacy, strong legislative advocacy, and effective interreligious and interethnic coalitions, AJC has made a significant impact on issues critical to the Jewish people.