

Senate Joint Memorial 12

Sponsored by Senator TAYLOR

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requests that federal government divest all public investments from stocks in private prisons and from corporations that hold more than one million shares in private prisons.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas a recent United States Department of Justice report asserted that private for-profit prisons are "less safe and less effective at providing correctional services" than prisons run by the federal government; and

Whereas private prisons have not proven to be less costly than public prisons, negating a key argument first put forth for their use by the federal government; and

Whereas many Oregonians find private prisons, and investment in them, to be ethically problematic; and

Whereas profiting from the imprisonment of others leads to unjust practices that promote increased incarceration numbers and longer sentences; and

Whereas there has been a call for the divestiture of private prison investment by many people across the country; and

Whereas several large investors, including Columbia University, the United Methodist Church, General Electric and Pershing Square Capital Management, have chosen to divest from private prisons; and

Whereas in August 2016 the United States Department of Justice declared its intention to cease contracting with private prisons; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, respectfully request that the federal government divest all public investments from private prisons and from corporations that hold more than one million shares in private prisons; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Attorney General of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.