

January 31, 2023

Sens. Mark Meek, Brian Boquist, Lynn Findley Jeff Golden and Kayse Jama
Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee 900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 9730

RE: Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 541 Chair Meek and Members of the Committee:

Chairman Meek and Committee:

It is odd that we must enact legislation before we can rely on Oregon elected officials to consider human rights issues in making investment decisions. The State Treasurer is representing all Oregonians and as the fiduciary for the pension funds, should make sure that his work reflects Oregon values such as respecting human rights.

I am a retired substitute teacher with a very small PERS account who taught our children the importance of human rights and I ask that this value be lifted up by all of our Oregon officials..

How troubling to learn that Oregon pension funds may have been the largest financial backer of a spyware company that led to unlawful surveillance and endangerment of thousands of journalists and human rights workers as well heads of state! Let us ensure that officials use a human rights lens as they carry out their fiduciary responsibilities by enacting SB 541..

Sincerely;

Brenda B. Gould, Ashland