

A Resolution to Divest from Gun Industries

Sponsor(s):
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WHEREAS, The University of California Student Association (UCSA) is the “official representation of the student body of the University of California and the various campus student governments to the University of California Office of the President, the University of California Board of Regents, and other University related entities”¹;

WHEREAS, The UCSA “seeks to advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system” and has a history of advocating for issues critical to students to influence University of California administrators, Regents, and elected officials²;

WHEREAS, The student body of the University of California has a long and proud history of activism for social justice in which divestment campaigns have been and continue to be used to reclaim political agency and to change UC policies that maintain investments in companies that demonstrate a lack of accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others, most notably in the context of South Africa and most recently in the context of fossil fuels³ and the Prison Industrial Complex⁴;

WHEREAS, as a public institution of higher learning, the University of California has a responsibility to invest university funds in a socially responsible manner;

WHEREAS, guns have surpassed cars as the leading killer of Americans under age 25 this year⁵;

WHEREAS, the mass shooting of UCSB students that occurred in Isla Vista on May 23, 2014, was incredibly tragic to the whole University of California community;

WHEREAS, the gun industry uses funds and lobbyists to block gun violence prevention legislation that is widely supported by the American public;

WHEREAS, the gun industry is defined for these purposes as the three publicly traded firearms manufacturers (Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc; Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation; and Olin Corporation), private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management, publicly traded firearms retailer Cabela’s Incorporated, and any mutual funds and hedge funds that invest in firearms or ammunition manufactures;

WHEREAS, 74% of money contributed to the NRA from ‘corporate partners’⁶ are from manufacturers of firearms or ammunition and thus the gun industry contributes to the NRA’s efforts to block life saving legislation such as universal background checks on firearm sales⁷;

WHEREAS, The UC Investments Office claims to adhere “to high ethical, as well as professional standards, in serving the needs of its constituency”⁸.

¹ [UCSA Charter](#)

² [UCSA Mission and History](#)

³ <http://www.fossilfreeuc.org/>

⁴ <https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/USACPrivatePrisonDivestmentResolution.pdf>

⁵ <http://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CAP-Youth-Gun-Violence-report.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.vpc.org/studies/bloodmoney.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2013/apr/30/summary-manchin-toomey-gun-proposal/>

⁸ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGuu8kM-9qNUjIDRUN5OFhPRmM/view?usp=sharing>

WHEREAS, the UC Investment Office claims that “UC does not invest in companies that manufacture firearms” but has not full transparency on the matter⁹.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the UCSA Board of Directors instructs the Board of Regents to develop a plan to divest any university funds invested in the gun industry by May 2015 and execute said plan by December 2015;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the UCSA Board of Directors requests full transparency from the University of California’s Chief Investment Officer about the divestment dates, how much money is invested in the gun industry, and amount of money that would be divested from the gun industry;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the UCSA Board of Directors instructs the Board of Regents to prohibit all future investments in the gun industry.

⁹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGuu8kM-9qNUjIDRUN5OFhPRmM/view?usp=sharing>