

**From:** [Jacqueline Freedman](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divest from Prisons  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 5:14:13 PM

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Please divest from prisons. I especially don't want us investing in private prisons that are for profit. I do want my money supporting systems that punish and promote hatred.

Sincerely,  
**Jackie Freedman**  
Visual Arts Teacher  
Duranés ES & Los Padillas ES  
Albuquerque Public Schools  
(505) 764-2017

*"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."* - Heather Cortez

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**From:** [Marion Markham](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment ASAP!  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:20:45 PM

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Hello NMERB Members Jan Goodwin, Ryan Stewart, Adán Delgado, Tim Eichenberg, Mary Lou Cameron, Russell Goff, Don Duszinsky, Steven Gluckstern, Larry Magid, and Bob Jacksha,

My name is Marion Markham and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment about 18 months ago.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16 regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official.

Would you please email me at [mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us) to share what's being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks? Everything I work towards daily is diametrically opposed to the establishment that funnels our at risk students into the prison systems. I do not want ANY investment in a system I work so hard to educate my students to avoid. Divest me from these holding ASAP. There is nothing to research and no need to consider. Teachers should not be invested in these systems. These systems fail our community and work against my efforts as an educator.

Thank you so much for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Marion Markham

[mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us)

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Marion Markham  
7/8 Science Teacher  
El Dorado Community School  
467-4960

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**From:** [Pelican Lee](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:17:02 AM

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Please divest from GEO Group and make it a policy to not invest in private prison companies.

With the US having the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and New Mexico incarcerating its people at a rate 18.7% higher than the national rate, and New Mexico relying on private prisons more than any other state, this is an important issue for New Mexicans.

Private prisons are known to have more health violations, exploitative labor conditions, physical abuse, higher use of solitary confinement, and more limited legal resources. The for-profit model leads to more incarceration and bad conditions. Private prisons companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic spend billions of dollars lobbying for "tough-on-crime" and anti-immigrant bills. GEO Group's reckless handling of the pandemic has helped spread the coronavirus and has led to numerous deaths in its facilities.

The inhumane treatment of incarcerated individuals, families and children is **antithetical to educators' values**. In fact, **many of our school families have been heavily impacted by CoreCivic and GEO Group**.

These investments are losing money for the ERB, so it is prudent to divest from them.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ellen Ackerman  
730 Columbia St.  
Santa Fe NM 87505

**From:** [Jennifer Moore](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Trustees, Board, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:50:38 AM

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Saved: Thu 10/8/2020 8:11 AM

Fiduciary Duty of NMERB Requires Divestment from CoreCivic and GEO Group

Board of the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
Executive Director Jan Goodwin  
New Mexico Public Education Secretary Ryan Stewart  
Chief Investment Officer Bob Jacksha  
Board Members Delgado, Cameron, Goff, Duszynshky, Gluckstern and Magid

Dear Executive Director Goodwin and Members of the Board of the NMERB,

Thank you for your service in the ethical and prudential management of NMERB assets to provide for New Mexico educators upon retirement. I appreciate your consideration of comments from the public and NMERB members calling for NMERB divestment from CoreCivic and GEO Group on humanitarian, ethical, and fiduciary grounds.

My name is Jennifer Moore and I am a member of the NMERB as well as a faculty member at the UNM School of Law, where since 1995 I have taught courses in Contracts, Immigration Law and Refugee Law. As in previous correspondence over the past year, I am writing today to call on the Board to divest the NMERB of its investments in CoreCivic and the GEO Group, private corporations that operate prisons and ICE detention centers in New Mexico and throughout the United States, including the ICE facilities for Otero, Cibola and Torrance Counties, run by CoreCivic. NMERB's divestment from private prisons and ICE detention facilities is mandated by ethical and humanitarian concerns that have only intensified during the current pandemic. These privately managed detention facilities house immigrant detainees, particularly asylum seekers who are seeking lawful protection from persecution under US immigration law. The detention of asylum seekers occurs on a discretionary basis under our federal Immigration and Nationality Act, yet when private corporations operate ICE detention facilities the profit motive creates a perverse incentive to "fill beds with immigrants" even when the law allows their release on bond or parole. What this signifies is that the retirement funds of NMERB members like myself are being enriched by the detention of immigrants including asylum seekers who need not be detained and whose very incarceration threatens their health as well as the welfare of their families. Continued investment in CoreCivic and GEO Group is a violation of the fiduciary duty of NMERB to its members.

This Spring I volunteered with my students in two immigration detention facilities run by CoreCivic, namely the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers for Tarrant County and Cibola County. We did so until the Covid-19 pandemic made it necessary to provide only remote assistance to asylum seekers in those two facilities. The same public health measures that led us and other attorneys and advocacy organizations to refrain from detention center visits have not been available to the detainees in these facilities. As you may know, out of the nearly 20,000 people in ICE custody in the United States, over 6000 have tested positive for the Covid-19 virus since February (<https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>). ICE facilities are hotspots for infection and privately run facilities in New Mexico have not been immune to Covid-19 transmission. By way of example, the CoreCivic facility for Tarrant County in Estancia, New Mexico has had 55 positive cases over the past several months. Concern for their health and the conditions of detention has also led some detainees to engage in hunger strikes, leading to a well-publicized incident in early July when fasting detainees were pepper sprayed by guards in the CoreCivic ICE facility for Tarrant County.

As a professor at UNM School of Law I am teaching my students the principles and values of due process, equal protection, human dignity, and professionalism. I am ashamed that the retirement funds it will be my privilege to receive as a retired educator have been enriched by the detention, mistreatment and health endangerment of individuals who are legally entitled to release from detention. I call on the NMERB to divest from CoreCivic and GEO Group on humanitarian, ethical and fiduciary grounds. Many thanks for your consideration of my views and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Very sincerely,

Jennifer Moore  
Professor of Law and  
Pamela Minzner Chair in Professionalism  
University of New Mexico School of Law  
jenmoore@unm.edu  
(505) 850-2722

**From:** [Jim Plewa](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:20:06 AM

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Hello ERB Board members,

My name is Jim Plewa. I'm a retired high school teacher and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment about 18 months ago.

As you know, the for-profit model leads to more incarceration and bad conditions. Private prisons companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic spend billions of dollars lobbying for "tough-on-crime" and anti-immigrant bills so that they can fill their prisons. GEO Group's reckless handling of the pandemic has helped spread the coronavirus and has led to numerous deaths in its facilities.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16 regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official.

Would you please share what's being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks and please send me any documents about this that can further our understanding of your goals and strategies about this important issue before the Oct. 16th meeting?

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Jim Plewa  
2986 Plaza Blanca  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
[plewajim@msn.com](mailto:plewajim@msn.com)

**From:** [Richard Levy Gallery](#)  
**To:** [Viviette Hunt](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:01:31 AM

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Dear NM Educational Retirement Board:

We understand that you have a board meeting scheduled and divesting from supporting the private prison industry is on the agenda. We strongly urge you to dump the GEO Group stocks immediately and to commit to not investing in prison stocks in the future. Unfortunately, human suffering and abuse has become synonymous with private prison practices. Please choose not to be a participant in this problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Viviette Hunt

**From:** [Jen Panhorst](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 5:08:35 PM

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To the NMERB trustees:

As a UNM employee who has an NMERB retirement plan, I demand that NMERB fully divest from private prisons such as Geo Group and never make such investments again. It doesn't matter how small of an investment it might be - a dollar is too much. These companies rely on people being incarcerated to make money, and any investment in them is supporting that. No one's retirement should depend on people continuing to be incarcerated.

Sincerely,  
Jen Panhorst



**From:** [STEVEN KAESTNER](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:53:10 PM

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Hello,

I would urge the ERB to NOT take an active role in divestment of any legal business category. ERB should be stewards of our retirement money, and as research shows, such should primarily use a low-cost passive index strategy. ERB should not be in the business of actively managing its stocks, which is what it would be doing by excluding businesses.

I don't like private prisons, as I think they are currently incentivized to not rehabilitate prisoners. Citizens, like me should lobby their elected representatives to stop using private prisons. Please focus on securing our pensions, not on social engineering.

Steven Kaestner

**From:** [Rebecca Starrett](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:32:07 PM

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Rebecca Starrett I am encouraging the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons. I understand that there has been discussion about "dumping" the private prison stocks but no final decision has been made. Private prisons and private detention centers have demonstrated unethical behaviors and those behaviors are antithetical to NM educators' values.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Starrett

**From:** [Patricia Merewether](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:30:16 PM

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Dear NMERB board members,

As a current Albuquerque Public School teacher I am asking you to divest in private prisons. The private prison system perpetuates institutional racist policies and I am disgusted that my dollars are embedded in such a disgusting business. I beg of you to please invest in businesses and industries that work towards an anti-racist vision and those that are making our futures brighter and more hopeful.

Thank you for your energy and efforts in listening to your stakeholders.

Regards,

--

**Trish Merewether**  
**Biology & Chemistry Teacher**  
**Rio Grande High School**

*"One child, one teacher, one book & one pen can change the world."*  
Malala Yousafzai

**From:** [Annie SANCHEZ](#)  
**To:** [anniesanchezz@comcast.net](mailto:anniesanchezz@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:29:02 AM

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Good Morning,

My name is Andrea Sanchez and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment about 18 months ago. New Mexico incarcerates its people at a rate 18.7% higher than the national rate. (NM = 829 out of 100,000; US = 698 out of 100,000) The for-profit model leads to more incarceration and bad conditions. Private prisons companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic spend billions of dollars lobbying for "tough-on-crime" and anti-immigrant bills. Conditions of all prisons are deplorable, opaque and unsafe. Private prisons are known to have more health violations, exploitative labor conditions, physical abuse, higher use of solitary confinement, and more limited legal resources.

The inhumane treatment of incarcerated individuals, families and children is antithetical to educator's values.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16 regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official.

Would you please call me at 505-385-3911 to share what's being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks and please send me any documents about this that can further our understanding of your goals and strategies about this important issue before the Oct. 16th meeting?

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sanchez

**From:** [Kateri Sava](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 9:33:09 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Kateri Sava and I am an employee of Albuquerque Public Schools.

I recently discovered that currently, our retirement funds are being invested in GeoGroup and CoreCivic which are for-profit prison companies. CoreCivic actually currently detains asylum seekers and immigrants against international law (but not US law). It's disgusting to think that my money is going towards such an oppressive structure as prisons... let alone for-profit prisons.

**I am writing to support divestment of NMERB funds invested in private prisons.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Kateri Sava

**From:** [Barbee-Lee, Myrna](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:12:42 AM

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Hello NM ERB Board,

I am writing to you as a school nurse and member of the ERB. I am urging you to vote in favor of divesting from GeoGroup at the upcoming meeting and refraining from investing in any other private prison companies in the future. **As a nurse I feel that I have a moral and ethical obligation to make this issue a priority.** We cannot care for and educate our neediest children and families while at the same time promoting their detention by investing in the prisons who make money by incarcerating them. Please divest from GeoGroup.

Thank you,

--

Myrna Barbee-Lee, BSN, RN, NCSN  
School Nurse  
Piñon Elementary School  
(505) 467-1605  
[mbarbee@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:mbarbee@sfps.k12.nm.us)

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**From:** [Wendy Natoli](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STQ](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:06:39 AM

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Greetings, I am writing to ask that you vote to divest the Education Retirement Board from all holdings that are involved with the private, for profit prison industry. As an elementary school teacher I am tasked with holding high the torch of hope for my students and their families. My job is to envision a future when their accomplishments and contributions will improve life for everyone in our community. The idea that my hard earned investment in my own financial security is working against my hopes and dreams for my students, by funding a future of over-incarceration and under-education, is devastating to my morale. This kind of financial activity could have dire consequences for my students and my community. I consider it illegitimate and unconscionable.

Thank You, Wendy Natoli



**From:** [Dorothy Holland](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Dorothy Holland](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:48:48 PM

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I am a retired NM State employee whose retirement funds you are managing. I am **STRONGLY** against having my retirement funds invested in the business of private prisons.

- Private prisons have a record of inhumane and unethical treatment of incarcerated individuals, families and children.
- Many big banks and other investment agencies have been withdrawing support and funding to the private prison business; they have been divesting.
- CoreCivic and GEO Group haven't reached their benchmarks for the past 19 years - we should put that money into investments that will produce for us.
- As I understand it, there is no charge for dumping a poorly performing stock, so we should dump those stocks.
- A fiduciary's duty to the beneficiaries of a pension fund is not to maximize profits, but to engage in a prudent process. It is not prudent to invest my hard-earned money in a business that has unethical and inhumane practices.

Please divest our retirement program of any stocks related to private prisons.

Dorothy Holland  
2491 Sawmill Rd APT 1505  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5678  
505 670 6416  
[dorothy@bookgrrls.com](mailto:dorothy@bookgrrls.com)

**From:** [Sarah Townsend](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:57:18 PM

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Dear Jan Goodwin and Board Members,

I am writing to urge the NMERB to **divest from private prisons and migrant detention facilities**. As a university educator in the state of New Mexico, I am appalled that the ERB has shares of my pension funds invested in these deplorable institutions. Private prisons are ethically egregious and, in the current moment, deadly. There are over 1,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in state and federal detention facilities in New Mexico. The number of cases is likely much higher due to lack of testing and transparency.

NMERB's investment in GEO Group and prior investment in CoreCivic (which performed so poorly that the S&P 400 dropped it, forcing the ERB to sell it at a loss!) goes against everything I stand for as an educator: providing opportunities for young people and leveling inequalities by opening paths to advancement. I was encouraged by your last meeting on August 14 where several trustees stated interest in divesting from private prison stocks.

As you are undoubtedly aware, **private prison stocks are underperforming**, financially risky investments. At the time of the first request to divest over a year ago, the stocks in CoreCivic and GEO Group were worth just around \$1 million out of a \$13 billion [portfolio](#). As of 6/30/20, despite the fact that the NMERB increased the number of shares that they own in these companies, the value had dropped from \$1 million to \$600,000. For the last 10 years (from 6/30/2010 to 6/30/2020), Core Civic stocks were down 50.9% and the Geo Group was down 14.5% — while the S&P 400 Index was up 150.6%!

I am writing to urge you to simplify the process of voting for divestment of GEO Group stocks at the October 16 meeting of trustees. I understand from pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official that the anti-divestment policy suggested in December 2019 was not passed as a legally held policy, as is required. The research about divestment is clear: private prison stocks are deplorable investments, both morally and financially.

I expect better for our futures and the futures of young people in New Mexico. Please vote to divest from private prisons at the October 16 meeting.

Respectfully,

Sarah L. Townsend  
Assistant Professor of English, University of New Mexico

**From:** [WOODWARD, BRENTON](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [Goff, Russell](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STQ](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:59:02 PM

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Dear Board members,

I am writing to urge you to divest from all GEO Group stocks in order to eliminate private prison money from the NMERB. Holding these stocks is both morally and fiscally unacceptable: not only do these private prisons mistreat and profit from incarcerated people, some of whom have gone on to be my students, but these stocks are also historically underperforming, failing to meet benchmarks and bleeding money from our retirement funds. There is no ethical or rational reason to continue holding these stocks as part of the pension fund, and so I hope that you all will take decisive action on October 16th to remedy the situation, since to date such action has not been taken.

Thank you for your time,

Brenton Woodward  
Instructor - English Department  
School of Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences  
Central New Mexico Community College

**From:** [Kalyn Finnell](#)  
**To:** [Communications. ERB. ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:21:36 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my stance that the NMERB divest from private prisons, particularly GeoGroup and CoreCivic. CoreCivic detains asylum seekers and immigrants against international law. As an employee of Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), which serves ALL students living in the APS boundary, including immigrant students and students who may be in the process of seeking asylum, I strongly oppose that the money I work for be invested in this way.

Thank you,

Kalyn

--

**Kalyn Mae Finnell, AICP**

Interim Senior Planner + Manager

Capital Master Plan

Albuquerque Public Schools

915 Locust St. SE

Lincoln Bldg. 2nd Floor, Suite 9

Albuquerque, NM 87106

Office Phone: 505.848.8825

Cell Phone: 505.917.4933

**From:** [Barbara Zuckerman](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:55:24 PM

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To whom it concerns:

It is an affront to educators everywhere, that our funds are used to aid and abet the toxic criminal justice system of incarceration. Please, divest our funds immediately and use them for good.

Thank you,  
Barbara Zuckerman

--

Barbara Zuckerman - Kindergarten Teacher  
Kearny Elementary School

*"Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.  
What better books can there be than the book of humanity."  
Cesar Chavez*

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**From:** [Brandon Baca](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:40:39 PM

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NMERB,

My name is Brandon Baca and I'm the manager of the APS Refugee & Newcomer Support Program. I've worked with refugees and immigrants for over 10 years and would like to comment about this issue.

I'm a proud Burqueño and employee of public education. I do my best to live a life that is led by kindness in both heart and action. It's because of this that I've dedicated my entire adult life to working for the betterment of communities that have been oppressed and exploited (from volunteering with the rape crisis center, to 2 years in the Peace Corps, to my work with immigrants and refugees). This must include how I choose to use my money. The first time this issue came up for me was when I was working with a non-profit and found my retirement funds were partially being invested in a Sudanese owned company complicit in the genocide there. I contacted Fidelity and they quickly divested my funds and then decided that it would not invest in these companies ever again. I was very happy with that.

When I found out that some of my APS retirement funds were being invested in for-profit prisons that detain asylum seekers I was deeply disturbed. I've worked with asylum seekers for many years and gained a huge respect for people who risk their lives in search of safety like so many American families did once before. Imprisoning immigrants are actually against domestic and international law (<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/08/07/trumps-asylum-policies-and-the-troops-who-enforce-them-are-breaking-the-law/>). I believe that public education should be one of the greatest liberating forces in our society. How will be viewed as investors in companies that profit from human suffering?

We must divest from private prisons. We must invest our money in ways that do not damage others or the planet. Research has shown that we can invest in socially responsible ways and have little or no effect on the financial profits from our investments. We must do this now.

Thank you,  
Brandon Baca  
[bbaca75@gmail.com](mailto:bbaca75@gmail.com)  
505-362-8301

**From:** [Jennifer Lim](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:39:44 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Jennifer Lim and I am writing to urge the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons.

Despite my previous request for divestment on August 12th, it was heartening to hear at your last meeting on August 14th that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16th regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official.

Please share what is being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks and forward any documentation regarding this that can further my understanding of your goal and strategies about this issue, prior to the meeting on October 16th.

Thank you,  
Jennifer

**From:** [Kim W Jarigese](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 1:19:17 PM

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Hello,

I would think that the financial advisors to the NMERB would make sound financial investments for the solvency of the ERB first and foremost. Making investments that are of any social nature in general is a political decision and not a sound financial investment decision. I am supportive of the divestiture for the prison initiative, however, investing in any sort of prison system regardless of whether it is run privately or through a government entity is not a sound investment and should have never been made in the first place.

Investing in ANY social program is a political decision and not one that is a sound financial decision for the solvency of the ERB.

Retirees are continually being asked to increase their contributions for the health of the ERB when it seems that better investment decisions need to be made on our behalf.

Kim Jarigese  
UNM Retiree (2017)

---

**From:** UNM Retirees <UNMRETIREES-L@LIST.UNM.EDU> on behalf of Retiree Association <retiree@unm.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 at 3:05 PM

**To:** "UNMRETIREES-L@LIST.UNM.EDU" <UNMRETIREES-L@LIST.UNM.EDU>

**Subject:** [UNMRETIREES-L] The Board of the University of New Mexico Retiree Association unanimously endorsed the attached statement

Good afternoon,

The Board of the University of New Mexico Retiree Association unanimously endorsed communicating the following statement regarding divestiture by the ERB of investments in private prisons. This initiative originated from UNMRA members through the UNMRA Legislative Committee and occurred in the midst of a larger statewide effort led by Prison Divest New Mexico (...a special project of the SANTA FE DREAMERS PROJECT in collaboration with Teachers Against Child Detention NM, Albuquerque Teachers Federation, UNM Law Faculty, American Federation of Teachers NM, NEA-NM, Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education, Española Public Schools Board of Education, Horizons Sustainable Financial Services, the frontierists collective, and thousands of current and retired public school educators across New Mexico).

More information is available at the website <https://prisondivestnewmexico.org>."



Thank you  
UNM Retiree Association Board

**From:** [Tony Burris](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] divestment  
**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2020 8:37:38 PM

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This rush to divest is rather silly.

Much more information is needed.

First: What do you propose to divest and Second: Into what do you propose to reinvest? Is there some estimate of the transactions fees we members of ERB will have to pay? If so, what are they?

Is this a staged process? Divest--Yes, then step 2; what goes and step 3; into what?

And, where is the information that led up to this proposed action?

Good heavens, ERB has our email addresses and could certainly have prepared the members for some of this ahead of time.

AEBurris

**From:** [Rick Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2020 1:26:06 PM

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Please note: I wish to speak the following at the Oct 16 meeting but could not locate how to do so from the website.

Contact me at [rickmeyer49@gmail.com](mailto:rickmeyer49@gmail.com) for further information.

NMERB

The portfolio of investments made by the NMERB are more than a simple spreadsheet of names of companies, funds, etc. They are evidence of choices that have been made. In this context, those choices—those investments—are moral documents and decisions. Although we have been told that the investments have been made for the good of the fiscal health of the NMERB, in reality, as has been discussed quite a lot, the investments in private prisons, which are investments in human suffering, are not about this particular investment at all.

Each time this group and others have come to make a case against investing in private prisons, the Board engages in a dance to protect their decision making. I will not reiterate all of those arguments because each—and any other new arguments—will be systematically dismissed by the Board.

The reason for avoiding the issues of private prisons and investments in human suffering has become quite clear. The Board is terrified of what we will do next. Now that we've exposed, challenged and even after we emerge victorious against the investment in brutality that this Board continues to condone by its actions (and also its inactions), it has become clear that the major driver behind NOT divesting is that when we win this protest that is rooted in the well-being of all, you know that we will be back to challenge other immoral and unethical investments in which profit has trumped human decency, kindness, and the responsibilities we all hold to every other human being.

We know, from examples like TIAA, that there are morally and ethically responsible investments with sound and continuous yields. We know these options exist; but the greed of this Board and their tenacity about perpetuating the pain and suffering of other human beings is not something they care to look at from their comfortable and safe positions. The Board needs to stop being afraid to face its moral and ethical shortcomings and start investment practices that serve the health and well-being of every human being.

--

Rick Meyer

**From:** [Pelican Lee](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:17:02 AM

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Please divest from GEO Group and make it a policy to not invest in private prison companies.

With the US having the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and New Mexico incarcerating its people at a rate 18.7% higher than the national rate, and New Mexico relying on private prisons more than any other state, this is an important issue for New Mexicans.

Private prisons are known to have more health violations, exploitative labor conditions, physical abuse, higher use of solitary confinement, and more limited legal resources. The for-profit model leads to more incarceration and bad conditions. Private prisons companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic spend billions of dollars lobbying for "tough-on-crime" and anti-immigrant bills. GEO Group's reckless handling of the pandemic has helped spread the coronavirus and has led to numerous deaths in its facilities.

The inhumane treatment of incarcerated individuals, families and children is **antithetical to educators' values**. In fact, **many of our school families have been heavily impacted by CoreCivic and GEO Group**.

These investments are losing money for the ERB, so it is prudent to divest from them.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ellen Ackerman  
730 Columbia St.  
Santa Fe NM 87505

**From:** [Sarah Ausherman](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [LMAGID@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [Szu-Han Ho](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Geo group shares  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:08:41 AM

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Hello Ms. Goodwin and NMERB board of trustees,

I've been informed that your board currently holds more than 50,000 shares investing in private prisons here in New Mexico.

While this structure has been effectively normalized and compartmentalized from those of us who are free, the lack of accountability within these prisons has emboldened the facility's shareholders to profit off of human lives and labor. Many of those in detention are migrants escaping genocide, violence and famine. The numbers of migrants detained from 2005 to now is over 400% what it was when these prisons were established. The reason why these facilities bare the amount of money they do is at the expense of those detained and their families. The circumstance is inflamed by this pandemic and this group's massive failure to protect those they profit from.

Steps like divesting from these systems, a choice you make today, is the only way to begin to repair the injustice and amplify the lives of these people who have been stripped of the dignity to speak for themselves. You have this power now and I hope you consider the weight of this truth rather than it's inconvenience.

I sincerely thank you for your time,

Sarah Ausherman

**From:** [Rebecca M Schreiber](#)  
**To:** [Trustees, Board, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Re: Regarding NMERB  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:35:36 AM

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Dear Jan Goodwin, Ryan Stewart, Adán Delgado, Mary Lou Cameron, Russell Goff, Don Duszinsky, Steven Gluckstern, Larry Magid and Bob Jacksha,

I am sending this email to encourage the NMERB to divest from private prisons, including CoreCivic and GEO Group. These two private prison corporations that operate 7 facilities in New Mexico, including jails, state prisons and ICE detention centers. New Mexico uses private, for-profit prisons for about 44% of our state's incarcerated people, compared to the rest of the nation holding 8% in private prisons.

I am asking that the NMERB divest from private prisons for a number of reasons, including the fact that they have minimal health and hygiene protocols, which they rarely follow, as revealed by the climbing rates of positive Covid cases in each facility.

Best regards,

Rebecca Schreiber

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Rebecca M. Schreiber (she, her, hers)  
Professor  
Department of American Studies  
University of New Mexico  
Humanities, MSC 03 2110  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Website: [www.rebeccamschreiber.com](http://www.rebeccamschreiber.com)

*The Undocumented Everyday: Migrant Lives and the Politics of Visibility* (University of Minnesota Press, 2018): <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/the-undocumented-everyday>

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**From:** Rebecca Schreiber  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:16 AM  
**To:** [board.trustees@state.nm.us](mailto:board.trustees@state.nm.us) <[board.trustees@state.nm.us](mailto:board.trustees@state.nm.us)>; [Jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.goodwin@state.nm.us) <[Jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; [ryan.stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:ryan.stewart@state.nm.us) <[ryan.stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:ryan.stewart@state.nm.us)>; [Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us) <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; [mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com) <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; [nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com) <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com) <[don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com)>; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com) <[steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com)>; [lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com) <[lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com)>; [bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us) <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>

**Subject:** Regarding NMERB

Dear Jan Goodwin, Ryan Stewart, Adán Delgado, Mary Lou Cameron, Russell Goff, Don Duszinsky, Steven Gluckstern, Larry Magid and Bob Jacksha,

I am sending this email to encourage the NMERB to divest from private prisons, including CoreCivic and GEO Group. These two private prison corporations that operate 7 facilities in New Mexico, including jails, state prisons and ICE detention centers. New Mexico uses private, for-profit prisons for about 44% of our state's incarcerated people, compared to the rest of the nation holding 8% in private prisons.

I am asking that the NMERB divest from private prisons for a number of reasons, including the fact that they have minimal health and hygiene protocols, which they rarely follow, as revealed by the climbing rates of positive Covid cases in each facility.

Best regards,

Rebecca Schreiber

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Rebecca M. Schreiber  
Professor  
Department of American Studies  
University of New Mexico  
Humanities, MSC 03 2110  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

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**From:** [Grace Granillo](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Vote for Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:05:14 AM

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Hello,

My name is Grace Granillo and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment in private prisons about 18 months ago.

As a New Mexican supporting education in our state, and a beneficiary who you represent, I ask that you immediately vote to divest my pension fund from GEO Group stocks.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system that does nothing to improve the lives that we are working constantly to better. Incarceration pipelines are not what this state's children and families need. Please vote to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Grace Granillo



**From:** NELL R BURRUS <[nellrb@yahoo.com](mailto:nellrb@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 at 2:08 PM  
**To:** "Communications, ERB, ERB" <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT

Dear ERB Board -

As a retired educator it pains me greatly to know that some of my retirement contributions have been invested in for-profit prisons such as GEO and CORE CIVIC. My entire career with APS has been about helping low income children, including the children of many immigrant families.

I have seen the fear of detention/deportation cause great stress to children and I have seen the devastating impact on kids when a parent is deported. Stressed children and children who have survived trauma, such as detention in these substandard facilities, are not able to learn efficiently and keep up with their classmates.

I disagree with the federal government which continues to deport law abiding immigrants, some of whom have been essential workers contributing to our community for decades. I also call out the federal government and immigration detention centers for their inhumane handling of the COVID-19 crisis. I want to be remembered as someone who spoke out against these abuses, not someone who funded them through my retirement dollars.

I understand that due to market fluctuations the Standard and Poor 400 has dropped one of these companies from the fund.

I believe that teachers should have a voice in where our money is invested. I think if you did a survey of all public educators, you would find very few (if any) want their funds invested in private prisons.

Please listen to the input you are getting. Please include this topic in newsletters that go to retirees. It is unlikely that people will be exploring your website to find out they must give input by Oct. 9. Please find out what educators ALL public educators in NM think about this issue. Then do the right thing and divest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours,

Nell Burrus

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***Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar***  
***Traveler, there is no path. The way is made as we go.***

***Antonio Machado***

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**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divest from prisons  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:48:46 AM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Jacqueline Freedman [<mailto:jacqueline.freedman@aps.edu>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divest from prisons

Please divest from prisons. I especially don't want us investing in private prisons that are for profit. I do want my money supporting systems that punish and promote hatred.

Sincerely,  
**Jackie Fre**

--  
**Jackie Freedman**  
Visual Arts Teacher  
Duranos ES & Los Padillas ES  
Albuquerque Public Schools  
(505) 764-2017

*"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."* - Heather Cortez

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**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divest the NMERB from CCivic and GEO Group  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:00:35 AM

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Written comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Liz McMaster [<mailto:revliz29@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; don@meetingpro.com; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divest the NMERB from CCivic and GEO Group

Dear Board members - I find it hard to believe that anyone connected with education would put monies into these two despicable groups that mistreat men, women and children in their detention centers. I have been involved with immigrants who come to our beautiful state and work at low paying jobs like cleaning our homes, roofing our roofs, etc. and manage with little to make a good life for themselves. They work like my immigrant great-grandparents worked, despite hardship. They help to make our country what it says it is--a land of opportunity.

Please, for the good of our education system, divest from these companies that treat our immigrant population so badly--poor food, inadequate health care, and unclean (to say the least!) centers for those that are imprisoned in their facilities. It casts shame on our state to treat human beings like us as they do.

Elizabeth McMaster

Albuquerque, NM

*"Justice is what love looks like in public" -Cornel West*

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment ASAP!  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:31:34 AM

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Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Marion Markham [<mailto:mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:20 PM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>; Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; don@meetingpro.com; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment ASAP!

Hello NMERB Members Jan Goodwin, Ryan Stewart, Adán Delgado, Tim Eichenberg, Mary Lou Cameron, Russell Goff, Don Duszinsky, Steven Gluckstern, Larry Magid, and Bob Jacksha,

My name is Marion Markham and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment about 18 months ago.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16 regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono

attorneys and communication with a state official.

Would you please email me at [mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us) to share what's being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks? Everything I work towards daily is diametrically opposed to the establishment that funnels our at risk students into the prison systems. I do not want ANY investment in a system I work so hard to educate my students to avoid. Divest me from these holding ASAP. There is nothing to research and no need to consider. Teachers should not be invested in these systems. These systems fail our community and work against my efforts as an educator.

Thank you so much for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Marion Markham

[mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:mmarkham@sfps.k12.nm.us)

--

Marion Markham  
7/8 Science Teacher  
El Dorado Community School  
467-4960

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**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:36:59 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Rebecca Starrett [<mailto:rebelstar1975@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:32 PM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>; Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT

Good Afternoon,

My name is Rebecca Starrett I am encouraging the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons. I understand that there has been discussion about "dumping" the private prison stocks but no final decision has been made. Private prisons and private detention centers have demonstrated unethical behaviors and those behaviors are antithetical to NM educators' values.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Starrett



**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:21:13 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Patricia Merewether [mailto:[patricia.merewether@aps.edu](mailto:patricia.merewether@aps.edu)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:30 PM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>; Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; don@meetingpro.com; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Dear NMERB board members,

As a current Albuquerque Public School teacher I am asking you to divest in private prisons. The private prison system perpetuates institutional racist policies and I am disgusted that my dollars are embedded in such a disgusting business. I beg of you to please invest in businesses and industries that work towards an anti-racist vision and those that are making our futures brighter and more hopeful.

Thank you for your energy and efforts in listening to your stakeholders.

Regards,

--

**Trish Merewether**  
**Biology & Chemistry Teacher**

## **Rio Grande High School**

*"One child, one teacher, one book & one pen can change the world."*  
Malala Yousafzai

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:32:25 AM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
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New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Myrna Barbee [<mailto:mbarbee@sfps.k12.nm.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>; Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; don@meetingpro.com; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Hello NM ERB Board,

I am writing to you as a school nurse and member of the ERB. I am urging you to vote in favor of divesting from GeoGroup at the upcoming meeting and refraining from investing in any other private prison companies in the future. **As a nurse I feel that I have a moral and ethical obligation to make this issue a priority.** We cannot care for and educate our neediest children and families while at the same time promoting their detention by investing in the prisons who make money by incarcerating them. Please divest from GeoGroup.

Thank you,

--  
Myrna Barbee-Lee, BSN, RN, NCSN  
School Nurse  
Piñon Elementary School

(505) 467-1605  
[mbarbee@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:mbarbee@sfps.k12.nm.us)

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**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:32:07 AM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
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[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Wendy Natoli [<mailto:wendy.natoli@aps.edu>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:06 AM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>; Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; don@meetingpro.com; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Greetings, I am writing to ask that you vote to divest the Education Retirement Board from all holdings that are involved with the private, for profit prison industry. As an elementary school teacher I am tasked with holding high the torch of hope for my students and their families. My job is to envision a future when their accomplishments and contributions will improve life for everyone in our community. The idea that my hard earned investment in my own financial security is working against my hopes and dreams for my students, by funding a future of over-incarceration and under-education, is devastating to my morale. This kind of financial activity could have dire consequences for my students and my community. I consider it illegitimate and unconscionable.

Thank You, Wendy Natoli

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:29:22 AM

---

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
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P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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---

**From:** Dorothy Holland [<mailto:dorothy@bookgrrls.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:49 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Cc:** Dorothy Holland <[dorothy@bookgrrls.com](mailto:dorothy@bookgrrls.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

I am a retired NM State employee whose retirement funds you are managing. I am **STRONGLY** against having my retirement funds invested in the business of private prisons.

- Private prisons have a record of inhumane and unethical treatment of incarcerated individuals, families and children.
- Many big banks and other investment agencies have been withdrawing support and funding to the private prison business; they have been divesting.
- CoreCivic and GEO Group haven't reached their benchmarks for the past 19 years - we should put that money into investments that will produce for us.
- As I understand it, there is no charge for dumping a poorly performing stock, so we should dump those stocks.
- A fiduciary's duty to the beneficiaries of a pension fund is not to maximize profits, but to engage in a prudent process. It is not prudent to invest my hard-earned money in a business that has unethical and inhumane practices.

Please divest our retirement program of any stocks related to private prisons.

Dorothy Holland  
2491 Sawmill Rd APT 1505  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5678

505 670 6416

[dorothy@bookgrrls.com](mailto:dorothy@bookgrrls.com)

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:29:10 AM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Sarah Townsend [<mailto:sltownse@unm.edu>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:56 PM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>  
**Cc:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; don@meetingpro.com; [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Dear Jan Goodwin and Board Members,

I am writing to urge the NMERB to **divest from private prisons and migrant detention facilities**. As a university educator in the state of New Mexico, I am appalled that the ERB has shares of my pension funds invested in these deplorable institutions. Private prisons are ethically egregious and, in the current moment, deadly. There are over 1,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in state and federal detention facilities in New Mexico. The number of cases is likely much higher due to lack of testing and transparency.

NMERB's investment in GEO Group and prior investment in CoreCivic (which performed so poorly that the S&P 400 dropped it, forcing the ERB to sell it at a loss!) goes against everything I stand for as an educator: providing opportunities for young people and leveling inequalities by opening paths to advancement. I was encouraged by your last meeting on August 14 where several trustees stated interest in divesting from private prison stocks.



As you are undoubtedly aware, **private prison stocks are underperforming**, financially risky investments. At the time of the first request to divest over a year ago, the stocks in CoreCivic and GEO Group were worth just around \$1 million out of a \$13 billion [portfolio](#). As of 6/30/20, despite the fact that the NMERB increased the number of shares that they own in these companies, the value had dropped from \$1 million to \$600,000. For the last 10 years (from 6/30/2010 to 6/30/2020), Core Civic stocks were down 50.9% and the Geo Group was down 14.5% — while the S&P 400 Index was up 150.6%!

I am writing to urge you to simplify the process of voting for divestment of GEO Group stocks at the October 16 meeting of trustees. I understand from pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official that the anti-divestment policy suggested in December 2019 was not passed as a legally held policy, as is required. The research about divestment is clear: private prison stocks are deplorable investments, both morally and financially.

I expect better for our futures and the futures of young people in New Mexico. Please vote to divest from private prisons at the October 16 meeting.

Respectfully,

Sarah L. Townsend  
Assistant Professor of English, University of New Mexico

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:31:19 AM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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---

**From:** Richard Levy Gallery [<mailto:richardlevygallery@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** Viviette Hunt <[info@levygallery.com](mailto:info@levygallery.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Dear NM Educational Retirement Board:

We understand that you have a board meeting scheduled and divesting from supporting the private prison industry is on the agenda. We strongly urge you to dump the GEO Group stocks immediately and to commit to not investing in prison stocks in the future. Unfortunately, human suffering and abuse has become synonymous with private prison practices. Please choose not to be a participant in this problem.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Best,

Viviette Hunt

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:49:10 AM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
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**From:** Robbie Sugg [<mailto:robbie.sugg@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 5:27 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Hello,

I am a New Mexico educator and I am writing to demand the complete divestment of all retirement funding from prison corporations, particularly for-profit prison companies, such as GEO Group and Core Civic. It is appalling and perverse that the retirements of educators, who dedicate their lives to building a well-rounded, informed, and thoughtfully thriving populace, are invested in private for-profit prison companies. These prison companies place a profit motive on shuttling ever more of our state's underserved youth into prisons, which destroys their lives, and rips families apart, and upends the work of public education. Having our retirements invested in the school-to-prison pipeline directly undermines our very work.

It does not matter whether 100% or 0.0001% of NMERB's retirement funds come from private prisons; any amount at all is investing in an atrocity. DIVEST from prisons, and ensure that we

educators are not profiting off of their crimes against humanity.

Sincerely,  
James "Robbie" Sugg  
Albuquerque, NM

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Vote for Divestment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:33:12 AM

---

Comment

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
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[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Grace Granillo [<mailto:grace@dlenm.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:07 AM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Vote for Divestment

Hello,

My name is Grace Granillo and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment in private prisons about 18 months ago.

As a New Mexican supporting education in our state, and a beneficiary who you represent, I ask that you immediately vote to divest my pension fund from GEO Group stocks.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment, YOU can make a difference. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system that does nothing to improve the lives that we are working constantly to better. Incarceration pipelines are not what this state's children and families need. Please vote to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Grace Granillo

**Grace Granillo, MPA**

**From:** Jorge Alarcon [<mailto:jorge.alarcon@me.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 2:08 PM

**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>; Stewart, Ryan, PED <[Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us](mailto:Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us)>; Delgado, Adan, PED <[Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us](mailto:Adan.Delgado@state.nm.us)>; Eichenberg, Tim, STO <[Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:Tim.Eichenberg@state.nm.us)>; Cameron, Mary Lou <[mlcameron48@gmail.com](mailto:mlcameron48@gmail.com)>; Goff, Russell <[nmaer@cybermesa.com](mailto:nmaer@cybermesa.com)>; Don Duszinsky <[don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com)>; Steven Gluckstern – new NMERB Chairperson <[steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com)>; Larry Magid <[lmagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:lmagid@rwbaird.com)>; Jacksha, Bob, ERB <[bob.jacksha@state.nm.us](mailto:bob.jacksha@state.nm.us)>

**Subject:** [EXT] PLEASE DIVEST MY NMERB retirement funds...

Executive Director Jan and Trustees,

Please dump GEO Group stocks immediately and never invest in any type of prison stocks again!

Jan, can you ensure that my email be placed in the Oct. 16th meeting's packet for trustees? Thanks!

Jorge

October 6, 2020

Dear NMERB member:

Although I have previously e-mailed you about dropping GEO group from your investments, I feel compelled to do it again. Since my last e-mail the Covid virus has affected more of the incarcerated individuals in the GEO group's detention centers. I don't feel as if they are following the governor's mandates about protocols to keep people safe, and the State has little or no oversight to see that they do. Crossing the border should not be a death sentence!

As a teacher who taught in SFPS for 25 years I would like to think that my NMERB investments represent the values I have and the ones I tried to pass on to my students. Holding on to GEO group stock does not represent this wish of mine.

Sincerely,

Judy Crawford  
2132 Paseo Ponderosa  
Santa Fe, NM 87501



**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divest from Private Prisons  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:10:16 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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---

**From:** Holly Rucker [mailto:[herteach@yahoo.com](mailto:herteach@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divest from Private Prisons

I urge you to promote the divestment of ERB from private prisons. As an educator, I can't condone or receive investment from institutions that treat people inhumanely. In addition, private prisons that house migrants and offenders provide poor financial returns. ERB should have no dealings with private prisons or detention facilities.

**DIVEST FROM PRIVATE PRISONS NOW!**

Sincerely,  
Holly Rucker

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divest from Private Prisons  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:10:16 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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---

**From:** Holly Rucker [mailto:[herteach@yahoo.com](mailto:herteach@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divest from Private Prisons

I urge you to promote the divestment of ERB from private prisons. As an educator, I can't condone or receive investment from institutions that treat people inhumanely. In addition, private prisons that house migrants and offenders provide poor financial returns. ERB should have no dealings with private prisons or detention facilities.

**DIVEST FROM PRIVATE PRISONS NOW!**

Sincerely,  
Holly Rucker

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 11:21:41 AM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Pelican Lee [<mailto:pelicanlee4@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Please divest ERB funds from GEO Group and make it a policy to not invest in private prison companies.

With the US having the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and New Mexico incarcerating its people at a rate 18.7% higher than the national rate, and New Mexico relying on private prisons more than any other state, this is an important issue for New Mexicans.

Private prisons are known to have more health violations, exploitative labor conditions, physical abuse, higher use of solitary confinement, and more limited legal resources. The for-profit model leads to more incarceration and bad conditions. Private prisons companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic spend billions of dollars lobbying for "tough-on-crime" and anti-immigrant bills. GEO Group's reckless handling of the pandemic has helped spread the coronavirus and has led to numerous deaths in its facilities.

The inhumane treatment of incarcerated individuals, families and children is **antithetical to educators' values**. In fact, **many of our school families have been heavily impacted by CoreCivic and GEO Group**.

These investments are losing money for the ERB, so it is prudent to divest from them.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ellen Ackerman  
730 Columbia St.  
Santa Fe NM 87505

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:03:28 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Laura Carlson [<mailto:lauracarlsonis@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Dear Jan,

My name is Laura C Carlson and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment in private prisons about 18 months ago. I have worked as an educator in New Mexico and among all those I work with, I do not know a single individual who supports their retirement funds being invested in private prisons and migrant detention. I know so many of my colleagues have contacted in the past, are contacting you now and will continue to contact you into the future until divestment is achieved.

Before your August meeting, I shared my personal story of incarceration with you and I'm going to share that again because it is all still as true today as it was two months ago as it was 15 years ago.

What I want to tell you about is myself and my relationship to incarceration. I was incarcerated briefly when I was a 15 year old child. The trauma of confinement, of being taken away from my family, stays with me today. I recently learned from my mother that she was not even allowed access to my life-saving medication. When I was incarcerated as a 15 year old child, I was not allowed to relieve myself for 20 hours. We are not allowed to rest

I continue to have recurring nightmares of incarceration and confinement to this day. The pain I suffered is something I still think of and hurt. We were insulted by the staff and held to painful regulations.

But am also a white femme with educated white parents. I had straight A's in school. These privileges and others that I am not even aware of allowed me to expunge my record at 18 and pursue a college degree, and I ended up receiving my Master's from an Ivy League University. I know that if I were any other child (poorer, POC, undereducated) this would not be the case. I might still be incarcerated today in a private prison being used as exploited labor. My trauma is mild compared to that of so many others, and yet this trauma still affects me at 30 years old.

As educators we CANNOT allow this to continue to children or adults. Imprisonment and incarceration hurt people, communities, economies, and ecologies. Prisons in America are inhumane and continue the practice of enslaved labor in a country that supposedly ended slavery in the 19th century. As someone who has experienced systems of incarceration, even to a brief degree, it is appalling to me that our retirement funds would be used to support enslavement, oppression, and injustice. I cannot rest when my own money has been invested in systems of exploitation, enslavement, and inhumane treatment. I hope that you cannot either. This is OUR retirement. This is OUR money. This is OUR community.

Sincerely,  
laura c carlson

--

laura c carlson  
they/them  
artist  
[www.lauraccarlson.com](http://www.lauraccarlson.com)

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:04:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
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[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Mikiko Ellis [<mailto:mellis@nmschoolforthearts.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT

Hello Ms. Goodwin,

My name is Mikiko Ellis and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment in private prisons about 18 months ago.

As a New Mexican public school system educator, and a beneficiary who you represent, I ask that you immediately vote to divest my pension fund from GEO Group stocks.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. This is an opportunity to put all of us on the right side of history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Mikiko Ellis

--

**Mikiko Ellis, NCC, LMHC**  
(she, her, hers)  
**Bilingual High School Counselor**  
[mellis@nmschoolforthearts.org](mailto:mellis@nmschoolforthearts.org)  
505.310.4194 x104

**New Mexico School for the Arts**  
500 Montezuma  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
[nmschoolforthearts.org](http://nmschoolforthearts.org)



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**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:05:08 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Allison Fabara [<mailto:allison.fabara@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:46 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Jan,

My name is Allison Fabara. As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of

history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Allison Fabara

--

Allison Fabara (*she/her*)  
2732 La Bajada  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
mobile: 505.927.7821

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:05:24 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Brook Bernini [<mailto:binibrook@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:43 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Hello Ms. Goodwin,

My name is Brook Bernini. As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of

history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Brook Bernini

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Private prisons cause real harm  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:03:54 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Leah Potter-Weight [<mailto:ljpotterweight@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Private prisons cause real harm

Hello Director Goodwin,

My name is Leah Potter-Weight, and I am writing to express my sincere sadness and frustration regarding your choice to invest in private prisons. I would like to believe you made this choice out of ignorance, because the idea that you would do so knowing the abhorrent impacts of private prisons, is just too much to bear. If it is being done out of ignorance, PLEASE take the time to read [this expose](#) by a journalist who spent four months undercover as a private prison guard. The piece exposes the DEEP harm that is caused by the system. When profit drives prisons, it means imprisoned people have little to no health services, cramped quarters, increased exposure to sexual violence, and few means by which to connect to the world. The workers, too, are put in dire situations. It is inhumane and it must end.

As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees

are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. The prison system, and private prisons in particular, are direct descendents of our country's system of slavery. [Please watch the documentary 13th if you'd like to understand their direct connection.](#)

This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Leah Potter-Weight

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Vote to divest from private prisons now  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:04:53 PM

---

Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Sylvia Johnson [<mailto:sylvia@santafedreamersproject.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Communications, ERB, ERB <[ERB.Communications@state.nm.us](mailto:ERB.Communications@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Vote to divest from private prisons now

Dear NMERB trustees,

You have heard from me before, at every board meeting since April 2020 and in private meetings as far back as July 2019. We should be old friends by now.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in divesting from the GEO Group stocks. I'm writing today to find out what exactly is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16?

I request that at that meeting you actually hold a vote to divest immediately from GEO Group, and urge you to simplify this process as much as possible. Just do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16. The power is in your hands to make a choice to put the NMERB on the right side of history while also making a financially forward thinking, responsible decision for your vested members.

You have heard all of my arguments before. They still stand. Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. You all have an opportunity to take a simple action that has a profound impact on human

lives. I hope you choose to take it.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia

-----  
Sylvia Johnson  
Creative Director  
Santa Fe Dreamers Project  
[sylvia@santafedreamersproject.org](mailto:sylvia@santafedreamersproject.org)  
505-204-7093  
*Pronouns: She/Her/Elle*



**From:** [Sallie Scheufler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVEST! DIVEST! DIVEST! PLEASE DIVEST.  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 8:42:16 AM

---

Dear New Mexico Educational Retirement Board of Trustees,

My name is Sallie Scheufler, I am a citizen in Albuquerque and former educator at UNM. I am calling on you, once again, to divest retirement funds from corporations that run for-profit prisons and detention centers. As a board member, it is your job to do what is in the best interests of New Mexico's educators. PLEASE divest in private prisons!!! If you don't care about divesting from a corporation that literally depends on the intake of human bodies and produces slave labor, then consider the facts that it's not a great investment to begin with and the change of assets would be nearly invisible.

These institutions are racist at their core, value money over human life and we are seeing that now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, more than ever. There is a disproportionate number of BIPOC incarcerated because of private prison corporations lobbying Congress to incorporate "Three Strikes" sentencing and creating the "School to Prison Pipeline" with zero-tolerance discipline policies. There are minimal health and hygiene protocols, which are rarely followed, as revealed by the climbing rates of positive COVID cases in each facility. *Private facilities actually make profits off of how many bodies can be incarcerated multiplied by the length of incarceration.* They lower costs by forcing inmates to *work often without pay* (aka slave labor), and by cutting medical and behavioral health services. These are just a few of the outrageous issues with for-profit incarceration. Immigration detention centers are just as bad.

I am among thousands of others who urge you to listen and divest from mass incarceration. It is not right to make money off of people's lives. PLEASE listen to the people you represent.

Thank you,  
Sallie

--

Sallie Scheufler  
[www.salliescheufler.com](http://www.salliescheufler.com)  
Artist  
pronouns: she/her/they/them

**From:** [Elaine George](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] divestment from private prisons  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 12:11:23 PM

---

I am writing to express my concerns with investing in the private prison system. I hope the committee will vote to divest and decrease from investing our pension money into for profit prison systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Elaine George-Lerner  
Speech Language Therapist  
[lerner\\_e@aps.edu](mailto:lerner_e@aps.edu)

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**From:** [John Geffroy](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment of ERB's private prison holdings  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:32:25 PM

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Las Vegas, New Mexico

Oct. 8, 2020

Dear members of the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board,

We write to strongly urge NMERB to eliminate its holdings in stocks and securities of all private prison corporations, and to resolve never to acquire such holdings in the future, for the following reasons:

- 1) The fundamental concept of private for-profit prison operations is that their interests lie in maximum incarceration, since their profits depend on holding as many inmates as possible for as many days as possible. This goal is totally at odds with the goals of any reasonable governmental corrections system, county, state, or federal.
- 2) It has been shown that in the state of Arizona, officials of a private prison corporation were allowed to in effect draft state enabling legislation regarding the incarceration of various categories of detained undocumented migrants.
- 3) The State of New Mexico has not had successful experiences with private prisons, for the most part. The state has not found savings in private prisons, and private prisons have no better records in terms of security of prisoners, or preventing inmates from suborning or blackmailing prison staff.

We regret that we have not had the time to produce documentation supporting each of these points for the purpose of these hearings, but we know that NM State legislative investigations and prisoners' right groups have investigated these and other allegations, so the documentation should be readily available. We recommend visiting [www.prisondivestnewmexico.org](http://www.prisondivestnewmexico.org). We, the undersigned, have lived in New Mexico for the past 46 years, and feel we not only have a stake in its future, but a responsibility to speak out wherever we see the perpetuation of injustice.

Sincerely,

Margaret Vázquez-Geffroy, Ph.D (retired NMHU professor, NMERB beneficiary)  
John L. Geffroy, Ph.D (retired anthropologist and teacher)

842 Highland Drive  
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Phone: 505-454-1077  
Email: [plouhatin@gmail.com](mailto:plouhatin@gmail.com)

**From:** [Rebecca Roberts-Wolfe](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment!  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:49:48 PM

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Hello NM ER Board members and staff,

My name is Rebecca Roberts-Wolfe. As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you PLEASE VOTE to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to ensure that a vote is held for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery, a system which is in fact an outgrowth of slavery itself. It takes courage to go against the norm, but when we know that the norm is so unjust, we have an *obligation* to do so. This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of history - please take it by **voting** to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca

**From:** [Lois M Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Lois M Meyer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:52:44 AM

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Dear members of the NM ERB Board of Trustees:

I am writing this email because it seems to be the only way permitted by you to make my views and voice as an ERB retiree heard prior to your vote on divestment.

I retired as a Full Professor from UNM on July 1, 2019, after 19 years of service in NM and 11 years as a tenured professor at San Francisco State University in CA. My field of expertise is bilingual education, where we are committed to giving voice to the priorities and values of those diverse members of schools and communities who too often are silenced by school boards and district administrations.

In the past months I have had several conversations by email and telephone with trustee Don Duszynski expressing my profound frustration and humanitarian concerns regarding ERB investments of my and other educators' retirement funds in for-profit private prisons. Although he professes to "share my values" on this matter, Mr. Duszynski seems to believe that his primary (and sole?) obligation as a Trustee is his "fiduciary responsibility," that is, to make as much money as possible for the fund.

If this is the priority direction given to NMERB Trustees, then by itself it argues for divestment from these private prison funds. Your NMERB meeting minutes document information provided to you by a contracted investment councilor within the last year, information that our divestment campaign has confirmed with other investment specialists -- the private prison funds are far from lucrative, in fact, they generally and continually have performed poorly.

It has also been argued that the NMERB is unable to divest from a specific stock that forms part of a major stock portfolio. Investment councilors have also communicated to the Trustees that this argument is erroneous.

It therefore seems very clear that it is within the power and authority of the NMERB Board of Trustees to divest from private prison stocks; indeed, according to their "fiduciary responsibility", they have an obligation to the fund's members to do so in order to invest in more lucrative stocks.

But beyond Trustees' fiduciary responsibility, I believe strongly that the Trustees must be held accountable to basic humanitarian concerns and commitments. NM has an extraordinary percentage of its detainees and prisoners incarcerated in private prisons which make lucrative profits by harboring these prisoners. In the case of ICE detainees, few have committed any

crime. They are caught up in a repressive and dehumanizing immigration and asylum process that is contested continually on legal and human rights grounds. These prisons and detention centers are now sites of dangerous and escalating COVID-19 spread. Do the Trustees really believe that their responsibility and concern stop with the financial bottom line? I urge you to survey your fund's contributing membership to see if your financial myopia reflects the views and values of those whose money you are investing.

Finally, I am calling you as Trustees to divest on both financial and humanitarian grounds. If you as a Board do "share our values", as Mr. Duszynski claims, then act on those values and divest now.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Meyer

Lois M. Meyer, PhD, Professor Emerita  
Dept. of Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Studies  
College of Education  
MSCO5 3040  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Tel: 505-225-0022

**From:** [Lois M Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Lois M Meyer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:52:44 AM

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In the past months I have had several conversations by email and telephone with trustee Don Duszynski expressing my profound frustration and humanitarian concerns regarding ERB investments of my and other educators' retirement funds in for-profit private prisons. Although he professes to "share my values" on this matter, Mr. Duszynski seems to believe that his primary (and sole?) obligation as a Trustee is his "fiduciary responsibility," that is, to make as much money as possible for the fund.

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crime. They are caught up in a repressive and dehumanizing immigration and asylum process that is contested continually on legal and human rights grounds. These prisons and detention centers are now sites of dangerous and escalating COVID-19 spread. Do the Trustees really believe that their responsibility and concern stop with the financial bottom line? I urge you to survey your fund's contributing membership to see if your financial myopia reflects the views and values of those whose money you are investing.

Finally, I am calling you as Trustees to divest on both financial and humanitarian grounds. If you as a Board do "share our values", as Mr. Duszynski claims, then act on those values and divest now.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Meyer

Lois M. Meyer, PhD, Professor Emerita  
Dept. of Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Studies  
College of Education  
MSCO5 3040  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Tel: 505-225-0022



**From:** [Ted Stearns](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 10:44:03 AM

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Dear NMERB,

I am a teacher at Highland High School in Albuquerque, and I would like the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons. Investment in prison companies does not help my pension funds, but it does put me in an unpleasant position with respect to my students. Some of my students have family members in prison and may end up in prison themselves. For me to be profiting (or at least investing in, as it is unclear that I am really profiting) from their misfortune at the same time I am trying to be their advocate and educator troubles me and reduces my effectiveness as a teacher.

Sincerely,

Ted Stearns

804 Madeira Dr NE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

**From:** [Myrriah M Gomez](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [steven\\_gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 11:52:35 AM

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Dear, New Mexico Educational Retirement Board members:

My name is Myrriah Gómez. I am a second-generation educator born and raised in New Mexico. My parents are retired educators, and my two sisters are both educators in the state of New Mexico. I join the hundreds of other educators in our state calling for the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since we first found out this startling news about our investments 18 months ago.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on August 14th that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16th regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue, and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official.

I would like to be notified in writing via email regarding what is being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks. Please send me any documents about this that can further my colleagues and my understanding of your goals and strategies about this important issue before the Oct. 16th meeting.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Myrriah Gómez

*Myrriah Gómez, Ph.D.*  
*Assistant Professor, Honors College*  
*The University of New Mexico*  
*(505) 277-4211*



**From:** [Amy Brubaker Kanagy](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:45:44 AM

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Members of the NMERB,

My name is Amy Kanagy, and I'm a New Mexico educator. I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out how our money was being invested.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on August 14 that several of the trustees are interested in divesting from the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

It is time to immediately leave behind our investment in private prisons. Please listen to the thousands of beneficiaries who are asking you to make this change. We are not gaining anything from this investment, and we are contributing to the inhumane treatment of countless individuals, including many individuals connected to our public school and university families. As an educator, what good am I doing supporting my students in the classroom while my money is causing their incarcerated family members harm?

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Amy Kanagy

**From:** [Sofia Resnik](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:24:10 AM

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Hello,

My name is Sofia Resnik and I have served for 9 years as an art teacher at the Albuquerque Museum. As someone involved in education, I believe we must show the right example for the younger generations as well as work to create the world we want our children to inherit.

Private prison companies should not exist, and we should most certainly not be supporting this industry through investments with public retirement funds.

I urge you to listen to your beneficiaries who are asking you to immediately divest from GEO Group stocks and never invest in any type of prison stocks again. It is not too late to be on the right side of history if you take action right now.

Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Sofia

**From:** [gaile Herling](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:04:55 AM  
**Attachments:** [108 Dear NMERB Trustees and Staff.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Greetings,  
Attached is a Word copy of this letter. Thank you for your work.  
Gaile Herling

Dear NMERB Trustees and Staff,

I believe that everyone involved in this protracted situation wants what's best for our pension.

I've been writing to you, calling and attempting earnest dialogue with you numerous times since August 2019. It has been a very frustrating, bureaucratic experience that, frankly, I didn't expect from my own retirement board. I just naively assumed that you would listen and respond to me and the many thousands of other educators represented by all the letters, petitions, motions and resolutions. Instead, we were stonewalled and treated with condescension. I assumed you would want to discuss this matter seriously, do some real research, then be forthright in your role and at least vote on divestment rather than delay and postpone with falsehoods and myths. I don't write these words lightly.

A **falsehood** is a statement that distorts or suppresses the truth, in order to deceive. This is truly what seems to have occurred for more than the 14 months that I've been involved in this campaign to divest. Every time we tried to understand the truth underlying your hesitation to have an honest conversation about the real reasons for your reticence, we were met with falsehoods. We spent much time researching each falsehood and listening to financial and legal experts explain the deceptions within the statements. Here are a few, below:

**FALSEHOOD:** We passed a policy that says we can't vote on it – only the legislature and Governor can direct us to divest from specific stocks.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->TRUTH: State legislators say that this is absolutely untrue – they can't intervene in your money management. Plus, we found out that your so-called "policy" was not officially passed according to state law. It was merely a suggestion. At any moment you can choose to bypass this suggestion and vote. Why haven't you done so?

--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->**FALSEHOOD:** We'd lose our place at the table to influence the private prison industry.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->TRUTH: We all know the poor record of private prison corporations harming incarcerated children, families and individuals. We know they've lost dozens of lawsuits based on their poor treatment and horrible conditions. We also know that they've never responded to their investors, or changed their strategies of cutting costs through use of exploitative labor practices, poor hygiene and medical treatment, overcrowding, lack of professionalism and lack of resources in their facilities. Their profits come from the misery of people, as many people as they can fit for as long as possible. We're supporting this systemic racist practice of mass incarceration of disproportionately Black, Brown, Indigenous people. There is no place at the table and you

know that.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->FALSEHOOD: It will cost us money to divest.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->TRUTH: Actually, it cost us money to KEEP the stocks! As you know, CoreCivic's value fell so low that NMERB had to sell it at a loss. GEO Group hasn't reached its benchmarks in 10 years either. All you had to do was a prudent financial analysis of the long-term impacts of the stocks – something shared with you in the Aug. 2018 trustees meeting– and since they were a drag on the portfolio and could be easily liquidated or replaced by a stock that would improve the portfolio, it would have been easy to dump these stocks. We spoke with an administrator from Standard & Poor, who reassured us there would be no fees charged.

It's time to stop the delays, the falsehoods, the bureaucratic obstacles against your own constituents. Please listen earnestly and sincerely to us, actually follow our reasoning and recognize the logic – financially and ethically – of our arguments.

Then, do what's best for all in this situation and VOTE FOR DIVESTMENT on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please don't prolong this needlessly any more than you already have. We all deserve more than the treatment we've received from the NMERB. However, the incarcerated people in NM's private prisons and detention centers are the ones who are truly suffering.

Although you may think that divesting our pension's minimal amount in GEO Group will not have impact on these folks directly, it is a strong statement that, when combined with other divestments across the nation, plays a significant role in supporting legislation to ban private prisons that will be introduced in our state legislature this session.

Please don't pass up this opportunity again!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gaile Herling

**From:** [David Henkel](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#); [ERB-Board Members](#)  
**Cc:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [Ventura, Roderick, ERB](#); [Esquibel, Lawrence, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 10:11:59 AM

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Dear ERB Trustees,

I am taking this opportunity to urge ERB divestment from investments in private, for-profit prison corporations.

- A) <!--[endif]-->The financial reason is that the value of the stocks has plummeted below what is prudent for investment by the body overseeing our pensions. Arguments for retaining these investments based on the difficulty posed to management for oversight and precedent are weak, at best. As an officer and former board chair of one of New Mexico's charitable foundations, we have been able to work quite easily with our financial management to monitor and shift investments where it has been called for. **Especially as the current investment in these prison corporations is such a small fraction of the total ERB portfolio, it should be an easy adjustment to make.**
- B) <!--[endif]-->Lack of alignment with our values (Innovation, Integrity, Quality, Respect, Service, Stewardship, Transparency) is troubling, in that private, for-profit prison corporations have disguised grotesque practices of forced hysterectomies on those incarcerated, among other kinds of what can only be called "torture." The grim history of the 1930s, when eugenics was fashionable in the US and in Germany should be a reminder to us that we all bear **responsibility** ..investing is essentially a form of **approval**. Is this the path that ERB management recommends?
- C) <!--[endif]-->Upholding legal responsibility and oversight for the actions on our fiscal behalf is difficult, since contracting authorities (esp. Immigration Control and Enforcement, some NM counties and NM Department of Corrections) claim that they have no control over treatment of the imprisoned because the contractors operate outside the reach of those authorities. This means that the ERB is enabling harmful practices by the corporations against people, many of whom have committed no crime but are being detained by virtue of administrative convenience. Is this what we stand for?

Thank you for considering my views.

Dr. D.S. Henkel, Jr.

Professor Emeritus, UNM



**From:** [Mary Ramos](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 8:45:09 AM

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Dear ERB Board,

As a pediatrician, I know the incredibly harmful impact that the private prison system has on children and families. I do not want my retirement funds invested in these companies nor should I have to be invested in them. Do not hide behind fiduciary responsibility. There are many sound investment choices, including better investments that are better for NM educators and families in every way. Please act and do the right thing.

Thank you,  
Mary M. Ramos, MD, MPH

**From:** [Nancy Harmon](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:33:53 PM

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October 8, 2020

Dear Members of the NMERB Board,

I am writing as a retired teacher and fellow community member to express my extreme dismay in knowing that my retirement account is supported in part by investment in the private prison corporations, such as GEO and Core Civic. These prisons are being used to detain immigrants indefinitely here in New Mexico. I do not want my retirement funds coming from the abuse and neglect of innocent people in detention merely for wanting a better life for themselves and their families.

I am a member of the NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice and have been a mentor for two African men from Guinea, West Africa. Both were held at Cibola Detention Center for more than a year before they were among the very lucky detainees to be allowed asylum in the US several years ago. They have described the horrific conditions in this facility, including freezing cold; lack of enough food, meaning they had to supplement their diet with junk food from a vending machine if they had money; little opportunity for exercise or going outdoors; and punitive solitary confinement for minor infractions. They were not criminals, but even criminals should not suffer such treatment in a democratic country that espouses justice. Now many are becoming infected with COVID because of crowded conditions and lack of available hygiene. All of this is in the interest of profit!!

It is unconscionable and shocking that teachers, who have worked their whole lives to nurture and promote the well-being of their students, must accept that their hard-earned retirement funds come in part from private prison profit.

**Please divest immediately!**

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Nancy Harmon

**From:** [Allison Fabara](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:37:38 PM

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To the NM Educational Retirement Board,

My name is Allison Fabara. As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Allison Fabara

--

Allison Fabara (*she/her*)  
2732 La Bajada  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
mobile: 505.927.7821

**From:** [Barbara Brandon](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:45:01 PM

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It is a travesty that any of the funds used for public employees' retirement funds be invested in the prison system that uses inhumane practices. Please divest immediately!

--

Barbara Brandon, LCSW

Social Worker/Trabajadora Social

Truman Middle School

505-836-3030 ext. 58121

Google Voice Number: (505) 750-4308

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email and attached documents may contain confidential information. All information is intended only for the use of the named recipient. If you are not the named recipient, you are not authorized to read, disclose, copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on the information and any action other than immediate delivery to the named recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, do not read the information and please immediately notify sender by telephone to arrange for a return of the original documents. If you are the named recipient you are not authorized to reveal any of this information to any other unauthorized person. If you did not receive all pages listed or if pages are not legible, please immediately notify sender by phone.

**From:** [Margaret Brown Vega](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:55:24 PM

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Dear NMERB Trustees:

My name is Dr. Margaret Brown Vega, college assistant professor at New Mexico State University. I also coordinate Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention, a group that supports and organizes with people detained by ICE. My work has opened my eyes to the systemic problems with privatized incarceration. New Mexico leads the nation in terms of the number of state prison beds that are private. And given that the U.S. leads the world in incarceration, New Mexico holds a particularly bad position on this issue. Nationwide, more than 60% of ICE beds are private. All ICE facilities in New Mexico are privately operated. This industry, which hinges on the expansion of systems of confinement for profit, must end. Indeed I am part of a coalition seeking to do this in New Mexico. I have been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons. I am asking you to do this. If you do not do it for moral reasons, do it simply for the fact that these businesses are going to be put out of business as soon as we can make that happen - and we are close to that goal.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values. You should know that the CEO of the GEO Group was called to testify before U.S. House congressional committees in the last few months to respond to GEO Group's mismanagement of COVID-19 in their facilities, which has resulted in the deaths of those in their custody as well as their staff. They are being actively sued right now for a suite of reasons, including wrongful death, and in New Mexico, for violating our state open records law. Your continued indirect support of them by investing our retirement funds in their business helps to prop up their illegal and immoral activities - and the return doesn't even pay well. The returns will decrease when those of us on the right side of history have our way.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting **you vote to divest immediately** from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16. It is quite shameful that it has taken this long for you to make a decision. The delays and evasive nature of the way the board has handled this issue does not paint you favorably. Do the right thing while you still can. If it happens by default as it did with the CoreCivic stock, you will not come out looking any better.

Thank you for your attention to this, and for your action on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Brown Vega, Ph.D.  
Las Cruces, NM

**From:** [Joseph Cook](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 12:26:20 PM

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Dear NMERB Board members,

I encourage you to do the right thing and divest our NMERB retirement money from all private prison funds.

By now, you surely have seen the long list of reasons why NMERB should divest from the prison industrial complex. I agree that For-Profit Prisons are a horrible stain on this country. I write from personal experience, having navigated the costly private prison system over the past 8 years while mentoring, encouraging and trying to sustain the brother (Dominick Zazueta) of a foster child we hosted some 18 years ago now. We have mentored this family through thick and thin after the father was incarcerated for meth and the mother died of hypothermia on a remote road--leaving 4 kids to fend for themselves. Slowly Dominick fell through the wide cracks our country has opened for the poorest (and brownest) among us. Dominick is incarcerated in a private prison in Idaho. We remain hopeful he will eventually exit this for-profit hell hole.

For-profit prison systems are the worst of corporate America, taking every ounce of financial resources they can extract from the most disadvantaged in our society. These corporations profit through outrageous phone charges (we are paying >\$100 monthly so that he has 60 minutes of phone access), roadblocks to sending educational materials to inmates (we cannot send books to him, they must be purchased new), providing minimal and degrading living conditions and poor health care, and on and on. Supporting these corporations with NMERB funds is antithetical to our mission of education and lifting up humanity, especially diverse, under-represented populations. I am surprised this is even a debatable issue. Please make a stand for the right thing and divest our funds from this horrid system. You can do it!

sincerely,  
Joseph A. Cook  
Regents Professor of Biology  
University of New Mexico

**From:** [Laura Carlson](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:48:37 PM

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Dear NMERB

My name is Laura C Carlson and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment in private prisons about 18 months ago. I have worked as an educator in New Mexico and among all those I work with, I do not know a single individual who supports their retirement funds being invested in private prisons and migrant detention. I know so many of my colleagues have contacted in the past, are contacting you now and will continue to contact you into the future until divestment is achieved.

Before your August meeting, I shared my personal story of incarceration with you and I'm going to share that again because it is all still as true today as it was two months ago as it was 15 years ago.

What I want to tell you about is myself and my relationship to incarceration. I was incarcerated briefly when I was a 15 year old child. The trauma of confinement, of being taken away from my family, stays with me today. I recently learned from my mother that she was not even allowed access to my life-saving medication. When I was incarcerated as a 15 year old child, I was not allowed to relieve myself for 20 hours. We are not allowed to rest. I continue to have recurring nightmares of incarceration and confinement to this day. The pain I suffered is something I still think of and hurt. We were insulted by the staff and held to painful regulations. But am also a white femme with educated white parents. I had straight A's in school. These privileges and others that I am not even aware of allowed me to expunge my record at 18 and pursue a college degree, and I ended up receiving my Master's from an Ivy League University. I know that if I were any other child (poorer, POC, undereducated) this would not be the case. I might still be incarcerated today in a private prison being used as exploited labor. My trauma is mild compared to that of so many others, and yet this trauma still affects me at 30 years old. As educators we CANNOT allow this to continue to children or adults. Imprisonment and incarceration hurt people, communities, economies, and ecologies. Prisons in America are inhumane and continue the practice of enslaved labor in a country that supposedly ended slavery in the 19th century. As someone who has experienced systems of incarceration, even to a brief degree, it is appalling to me that our retirement funds would be used to support enslavement, oppression, and injustice. I cannot rest when my own money has been invested in systems of exploitation, enslavement, and inhumane treatment. I hope that you cannot either. This is OUR retirement. This is OUR money. This is OUR community.

Sincerely,  
laura c carlson

--

**laura c carlson**

they/them

artist

[www.lauracarlson.com](http://www.lauracarlson.com)



**From:** [Shawn Watson](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](#); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](#); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](#); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#); [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:55:48 PM

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Dear NMERB Trustees,

My name is Shawn Watson, and I'm writing to you regarding your upcoming opportunity to divest educators' retirements from GEO Group. I also emailed before your August meeting as I was expecting you to vote on this issue at that time. I urge you to vote to divest from GEO Group stocks at your October 16 meeting.

As a former educator myself and the daughter of a long-time educator with an NMERB retirement, my family will directly benefit from this money, and we know it's not morally right or fiscally secure to have retirements tied up in private prison corporations.

Investing in private prison corporations has proven to be financially unsound, and that fact has become even more apparent since my last email since the Core Civic investment was removed at a loss since their stocks were downgraded. For the last 10 years (from 6/30/2010 to 6/30/2020), Geo Group stocks were down 14.5% — while the S&P 400 Index was up 150.6%! NMERB should follow the lead of other public pensions that have divested from private prison stocks.

NMERB trustees work for the benefit of public educational employees, and, so far, you have chosen to ignore the thousands of vested members who are asking you to get rid of these stocks. Please imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery.

You have a moral and economic obligation to divest NMERB retirement funds from these private prison corporations and a chance to be on the right side of history, so again, I urge you to vote to divest from GEO Group stocks at your October 16 meeting.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Watson

**From:** [Erin Gould](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Cc:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#); [Stewart, Ryan, PED](#); [Delgado, Adan, PED](#); [Eichenberg, Tim, STO](#); [Cameron, Mary Lou](#); [Goff, Russell](#); [don@meetingpro.com](mailto:don@meetingpro.com); [steven.gluckstern@gmail.com](mailto:steven.gluckstern@gmail.com); [Imagid@rwbaird.com](mailto:Imagid@rwbaird.com); [Jacksha, Bob, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Please vote to divest from private prisons  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:24:11 PM

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Hello members of the New Mexico Education Retirement Board,

My name is Erin Gould and I am deeply concerned about NMERB's investment in private prisons, particularly the GEO Group. This investment is antithetical to the good work of all educators in this state.

I wanted to send this message primarily to voice my support for those pushing this divestment effort. It is clearly the only right way forward. We must divest from these cruel, racist, and unethical companies. Additionally, I am urging you to make this entire process as transparent as possible. Please be plain with us. This does not have to be a contentious issue. I truly believe that we all want what is best for New Mexico educators and New Mexico as a whole.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in riding this board of the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade), in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is irreconcilable with New Mexico educators' values.

Over a thousand people signed a petition supporting this divestment. Keeping our pensions tied to these corporations is shameful.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Erin Gould  
she/hers or they/them  
Adjunct Faculty  
Department of Art  
University of New Mexico

[erinlouise Gould.com](http://erinlouise Gould.com)  
[elgould@unm.edu](mailto:elgould@unm.edu)

**From:** [Leah Potter-Weight](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Private prisons are deeply harmful  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:47:31 PM

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Hello ERB,

My name is Leah Potter-Weight, and I am writing to express my sincere sadness and frustration regarding your choice to invest in private prisons. I would like to believe you made this choice out of ignorance, because the idea that you would do so knowing the abhorrent impacts of private prisons, is just too much to bear. If it is being done out of ignorance, PLEASE take the time to read [this expose](#) by a journalist who spent four months undercover as a private prison guard. The piece exposes the DEEP harm that is caused by the system. When profit drives prisons, it means imprisoned people have little to no health services, cramped quarters, increased exposure to sexual violence, and few means by which to connect to the world. The workers, too, are put in dire situations. It is inhumane and it must end.

As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. The prison system, and private prisons in particular, are direct descendents of our country's system of slavery. [Please watch the documentary 13th if you'd like to understand their direct connection.](#)

This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Leah Potter-Weight

**From:** [Sylvia Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Communications, ERB, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Vote to divest from private prisons now  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:49:11 PM

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Dear NMERB trustees,

You have heard from me before, at every board meeting since April 2020 and in private meetings as far back as July 2019. We should be old friends by now.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in divesting from the GEO Group stocks. I'm writing today to find out what exactly is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16?

I request that at that meeting you actually hold a vote to divest immediately from GEO Group, and urge you to simplify this process as much as possible. Just do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16. The power is in your hands to make a choice to put the NMERB on the right side of history while also making a financially forward thinking, responsible decision for your vested members.

You have heard all of my arguments before. They still stand. Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. You all have an opportunity to take a simple action that has a profound impact on human lives. I hope you choose to take it.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia

-----  
Sylvia Johnson  
Creative Director  
Santa Fe Dreamers Project  
[sylvia@santafedreamersproject.org](mailto:sylvia@santafedreamersproject.org)  
[505-204-7093](tel:505-204-7093)  
*Pronouns: She/Her/Elle*

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] DIVEST! DIVEST! DIVEST! PLEASE DIVEST.  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 9:05:44 AM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Sallie Scheufler [<mailto:salliescheufler@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 8:40 AM  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVEST! DIVEST! DIVEST! PLEASE DIVEST.

Dear New Mexico Educational Retirement Board of Trustees,

My name is Sallie Scheufler, I am a citizen in Albuquerque and former educator at UNM. I am calling on you, once again, to divest retirement funds from corporations that run for-profit prisons and detention centers. As a board member, it is your job to do what is in the best interests of New Mexico's educators. PLEASE divest in private prisons!!! If you don't care about divesting from a corporation that literally depends on the intake of human bodies and produces slave labor, then consider the facts that it's not a great investment to begin with and the change of assets would be nearly invisible.

These institutions are racist at their core, value money over human life and we are seeing that now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, more than ever. There is a disproportionate number of BIPOC incarcerated because of private prison corporations lobbying Congress to incorporate "Three Strikes" sentencing and creating the "School to Prison Pipeline" with zero-tolerance discipline policies. There are minimal health and hygiene protocols, which are rarely followed, as revealed by the climbing rates of positive COVID cases in each facility. *Private facilities actually make profits off of how many bodies can be incarcerated*

*multiplied by the length of incarceration.* They lower costs by forcing inmates to *work often without pay* (aka slave labor), and by cutting medical and behavioral health services. These are just a few of the outrageous issues with for-profit incarceration. Immigration detention centers are just as bad.

I am among thousands of others who urge you to listen and divest from mass incarceration. It is not right to make money off of people's lives.

PLEASE listen to the people you represent.

Thank you,  
Sallie

--

Sallie Scheufler

[www.salliescheufler.com](http://www.salliescheufler.com)

Artist

pronouns: she/her/they/them

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment!  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 8:57:40 AM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
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New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
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**From:** Rebecca Roberts-Wolfe [<mailto:rrobertswolfe@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:08 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment!

Hello Jan,

My name is Rebecca Roberts-Wolfe. As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you PLEASE VOTE to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to ensure that a vote is held for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as

apartheid or slavery, a system which is in fact an outgrowth of slavery itself. It takes courage to go against the norm, but when we know that the norm is so unjust, we have an *obligation* to do so. This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of history - please take it by **voting** to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca



**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 9:04:18 AM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Voice: (505) 476-6118 Fax: (505) 827-1855  
[Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:Jan.Goodwin@state.nm.us)

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**From:** Lisa Church [<mailto:lisachurch5@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:04 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Hello Ms. Goodwin,

My name is Lisa Parks. As a New Mexican taxpayer that cares about the ethical choices our state agencies make, I urge you to listen to the request of NM public school system educators - the beneficiaries who you represent - and divest their pension fund from GEO Group stocks immediately.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this moment. I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding a system as egregious as apartheid or slavery. This is an opportunity to put the NMERB on the right side of

history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Lisa Parks

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 8:58:15 AM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
P.O. Box 26129, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
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**From:** Francesca Blueher [<mailto:francescablueher@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:10 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Dear Ms. Goodwin,

My name is Francesca Blueher and for over a year, I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons.

As a retired Albuquerque Public School teacher, and a beneficiary who you represent, I ask that you immediately vote to divest my pension fund from GEO Group stocks.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in getting rid of the GEO Group stocks now, since these stocks are both financially underperforming and completely antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of the trustees on October 16 and to request that at that meeting you vote to divest immediately from GEO Group. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, and do what it takes to hold a vote for divestment on October 16.

Imagine yourself in 20 years looking back on this epic time of a global pandemic and social uprising. Personally, I know that I don't want to look back and realize that I was complicit in upholding the abhorrent system of profiting off the misery of humans. This

is an opportunity to put all of us on the right side of history - please take it by voting to divest from GEO Group on Oct 16. I will be attending the virtual Board of Trustees meeting next Friday.

Thank you so much for your attention to this. I look forward to "seeing" you on the 16th.

Sincerely,

Francesca Blueher

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Divestment  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:30:13 AM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
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**From:** Sofia Resnik [<mailto:resniksofia@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Divestment

Hello Jan,

My name is Sofia Resnik and I have served for 9 years as an art teacher at the Albuquerque Museum. As someone involved in education, I believe we must show the right example for the younger generations as well as work to create the world we want our children to inherit.

Private prison companies should not exist, and we should most certainly not be supporting this industry through investments with public retirement funds.

I urge you to listen to your beneficiaries who are asking you to immediately divest from GEO Group stocks and never invest in any type of prison stocks again. It is not too late to be on the right side of history if you take action right now.

Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Sofia

**From:** [Goodwin, Jan, ERB](#)  
**To:** [Lorang, Liz, ERB](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DIVESTMENT  
**Date:** Friday, October 9, 2020 12:10:43 PM

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Comment.

Jan Goodwin  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Educational Retirement Board  
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**From:** Lois M Meyer [<mailto:lsmeyer@unm.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** Goodwin, Jan, ERB <[jan.goodwin@state.nm.us](mailto:jan.goodwin@state.nm.us)>  
**Cc:** Lois M Meyer <[lsmeyer@unm.edu](mailto:lsmeyer@unm.edu)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] DIVESTMENT

Dear Ms Goodwin:

I am writing this email because it seems to be the only way permitted by you and the NMERB Trustees to make my views and voice as an ERB retiree heard prior to your vote on divestment.

I retired as a Full Professor from UNM on July 1, 2019, after 19 years of service in NM and 11 years as a tenured professor at San Francisco State University in CA. My field of expertise is bilingual education, where we are committed to giving voice to the priorities and values of those diverse members of schools and communities who too often are silenced by school boards and district administrations.

In the past months I have had several conversations by email and telephone with trustee Don Duszynski expressing my profound frustration and humanitarian concerns regarding ERB investments of my and other educators' retirement funds in for-profit private prisons.

Although he professes to "share my values" on this matter, Mr. Duszynski seems to believe that his primary (and sole?) obligation as a Trustee is his "fiduciary responsibility," that is, to make as much money as possible for the fund.

If this is the priority direction given to NMERB Trustees, then by itself it argues for divestment from these private prison funds. Your NMERB meeting minutes document information provided to you by a contracted investment councilor within the last year, information that our divestment campaign has confirmed with other investment specialists -- the private prison funds are far from lucrative, in fact, they generally and continually have performed poorly.

It has also been argued that the NMERB is unable to divest from a specific stock that forms part of a major stock portfolio. Investment councilors have also communicated to the Trustees that this argument is erroneous.

It therefore seems very clear that it is within the power and authority of the NMERB Board of Trustees to divest from private prison stocks; indeed, according to their "fiduciary responsibility", they have an obligation to the fund's members to do so in order to invest in more lucrative stocks.

But beyond Trustees' fiduciary responsibility, I believe strongly that the Trustees must be held accountable to basic humanitarian concerns and commitments. NM has an extraordinary percentage of its detainees and prisoners incarcerated in private prisons which make lucrative profits by harboring these prisoners. In the case of ICE detainees, few have committed any crime. They are caught up in a repressive and dehumanizing immigration and asylum process that is contested continually on legal and human rights grounds. These prisons and detention centers are now sites of dangerous and escalating COVID-19 spread. Do the Trustees really believe that their responsibility and concern stop with the financial bottom line? I urge you to survey your fund's contributing membership to see if your financial myopia reflects the views and values of those whose money you are investing.

Finally, I am calling the Trustees to divest on both financial and humanitarian grounds. If the Board does "share our values", as Mr. Duszynski claims, then it should act on those values and divest now.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Meyer

Lois M. Meyer, Professor Emerita  
Dept. of Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Studies  
College of Education  
Hokona 252  
MSCO5 3040

University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Tel: 505-225-0022



Hello NM ERB Board Member (group and individual emailed),

My name is Linda Townsend-Johnson and I've been trying to get the NMERB to divest our pension from private prisons since I first found out the bad news about our investment about 18 months ago.

It was heartening to hear at your last meeting on Aug. 14 that several of the trustees are interested in dumping the private prison stocks now, since they're losing tremendous amounts of money (and have been unable to reach their benchmarks for the past decade) in addition to the unethical behavior of an industry that is antithetical to NM educators' values.

I'm writing today to clarify what is planned for the next meeting of trustees on October 16 regarding a vote for divestment of GEO Group stocks. It appeared from your last meeting that the group may do some research about the divestment issue and I'm unclear as to what exactly you'll be researching. I urge you to simplify this process as much as possible, since the anti-divestment policy that was "suggested" during your December 2019 meeting was not passed as a legally held policy that was necessary to follow. We know this through the assistance of pro bono attorneys and communication with a state official.

Would you please call me at 505-362-3479 or email me at [Ljblested2@hotmail.com](mailto:Ljblested2@hotmail.com) to share what's being planned about the remaining GEO Group stocks and please send me any documents about this that can further our understanding of your goals and strategies about this important issue before the Oct. 16th meeting?

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Townsend-Johnson