Is Your Money Used To Support Racism?

Stop Illinois Money From Being Invested In Racist South Africa!
What is H.B. 0569?
This bill, introduced in the Illinois legislature by Reps. Carol Moseley Braun and Woods Bowman and co-sponsored by Reps. White, Alexander, Brookins, Taylor, Turner and LeFlore, will bring Illinois state pension funds home. The bill requires Illinois state pension funds to be divested from corporations doing business in South Africa, and makes banks ineligible for state funds if they loan to such firms for activities in South Africa.

Why H.B. 0569?
This bill would permit state pension funds now invested in South Africa to be reinvested in Illinois. Well over $1.8 billion could be invested in job-creating enterprises in this state.

Why South Africa?
South Africa is the only country in the world today where white supremacy is written into the constitution and laws. A white minority in South Africa benefits from the oppression of the black majority through a social and economic system known as apartheid. In this system 87% of the land is reserved for the 16% of the population which is white. Over 3.5 million blacks—Africans, Asians and “coloreds” (people of mixed descent)—have been forcibly relocated under apartheid; over 2.5 million Africans have been resettled to remote, barren areas known as “homelands.” In these
“homelands” 50% of all children die before the age of five.

Officially, blacks are not citizens of South Africa, cannot vote or form political parties. Some independent black trade unions exist, but they operate under strict government control and their leaders are frequently harassed, detained and tortured. Malnutrition, high unemployment, and a lack of all political rights are the reality for black people in South Africa, while white South Africans enjoy the highest standard of living in the world.

Is the U.S. Involved?

350 American corporations now support the South African economy through direct investments and trade. In 1980, U.S. exports to South Africa jumped by 50% to make the U.S. the largest trading partner of South Africa. U.S. multinational corporations and banks have over $14 billion shoring up the South African economy; they control 43% of South Africa’s petroleum market, 23% of its motor vehicle sales, and 70% of its computer business. By strengthening the apartheid economy, U.S. involvement increases the ability of the white government to preserve its power.
<h2>Doesn’t U.S. Investment Help Black Workers?</h2>

U.S. investments have increased steadily in the past two decades, yet the lives of South African blacks have become steadily worse. Black unemployment is over 25% and climbing, while whites enjoy nearly full employment and salaries 4 to 100 times higher than blacks. U.S. corporations employ less than 1% of the entire black workforce. Further, most U.S. companies have refused to set new standards in South African labor relations. Instead, many have adopted the Sullivan Principles and other corporate responsibility codes which only act as a cosmetic for the brutal violence of apartheid. The black community has said, “we don’t want our chains polished, we want them removed.”

As U.S. investment has increased, so has the suffering and repression of blacks. Since 1960, U.S. financial involvement in South Africa has risen to over $14 billion. Over this same period, more than 1,400 people have been banned or banished; at least 5,000 people have been detained without trial; and at least 8 million people have been arrested or prosecuted under the pass laws. During the 5 minutes it takes you to read this brochure, 2 blacks will have been arrested for pass book violations.

<h2>Why Support the Bill?</h2>

Divesting funds from South Africa will make a difference! The first effect would be a major blow to the confidence of the ruling minority government. Divesting
funds from the vital sectors of the economy—energy, transportation, computers—would also threaten the white government since the country lacks the natural resources and technology to be self-sufficient.

In addition to opposing racial discrimination, divestment would enable capital to be reinvested in Illinois. Investing in South Africa takes capital away from Illinois that could be used to stimulate our own economy and create more jobs.

**Will Divestment Endanger Illinois Pension Funds?**

Opponents of divestment claim that it would reduce the quality of the state’s investment portfolio (the stocks and bonds it owns). This is not true. In January 1983, Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to vote to sell from its public pension fund portfolio all those investments in firms doing business in South Africa. Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis, states:

“It has been our experience that divestiture makes not only a strong moral statement against apartheid but divestiture has proven to have had no significant impact on our pension earnings.”
Stop Illinois Support of Racist South Africa—Join Us!

1) Support passage of H.B. 0569. Contact your state representative NOW!

2) Collect signatures supporting H.B. 0569. (Petitions available from CIDSA.)

3) Issue a public statement by your organization supporting H.B. 0569.

4) Join CIDSA and add your name to the campaign as an endorser of H.B. 0569. (See tear-off)

5) Assist the campaign: contribute to its cost or arrange an educational program at your church, union, or organization.

Endorsers of H.B. 0569:


in formation
I would like to endorse Illinois House Bill 0569, which would require State Pension Funds to be divested from corporations doing business in South Africa, and make banks ineligible for State funds if they loan to such firms for activities in South Africa.

Enclosed:
Organizational member donation $10
Individual member donation $5
Additional Contribution

NAME 
ORGANIZATION 
ADDRESS 
PHONE (home) / (office)

I would like more information. Please contact me.