

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY SPRING TERM TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

RESOLUTION NO. Res-202-002

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A RESOLUTION TO: DEMAND TRANSPARENCY FROM HARVARD IN THEIR ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS IN LIGHT OF POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT PRISONS

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

Whereas, the Student Government was recently informed that the student body knows fewer than 1% of the companies and funds which Harvard's endowment is invested in. Nevertheless, this endowment contributes to virtually all of the school's operations, including student financial aid. It was further revealed to this body that this 1% itself, in fact, may contain investments in private prisons, including CoreCivic (formerly CCA) and GEO Group that control around 73% of the private prison market in the United States.

Whereas, as a Student Government, we find it abhorrent that a private market for prisons even exists. Unlike other often maligned industries, such as the fossil fuel industry and certain pharmaceutical companies, private prisons self-interestedly profit through the exploitation of a captive prison population that is paid next to nothing and is housed in deplorable conditions, even when compared to conditions in state-owned institutions. These conditions are well-documented.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Student Government, in turn, demands full transparency from the administration around their endowment and, in particular, how the funds under their direct control are deployed. We refuse to stand idly by as we learn in an environment that is funded, to an unknown extent, by money generated by companies like CoreCivic, GEO Group and other for-profit prison industry players. Only once such transparency is achieved can the Student Government begin to address serious and legitimate concerns by the student body that Harvard is unethically profiting off of private prisons even as it holds itself out as a public-facing institution of higher learning that purports to contribute to the greater good.

Resolved further, we demand a full accounting of Harvard's endowment, both directly invested capital and third party funds to which Harvard allocates money to the student body and staff as transparency is the first step in the process of ethical investment. Without such transparency and accountability, Harvard's motto of "Veritas" is little more than an empty platitude.

PASSED IN COMMITTEE:

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL:

VOTE TOTALS:

12 YES

NO

ABSTAIN