

April 6, 2018

Mr. Ken Thomas
OPERS Board of Trustees
Municipal Representative
277 East Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Divestment of Firearms-Related Securities

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Worthington City Council has unanimously supported taking action directed at curbing the threat of gun violence in our schools and communities at large. As part of a multi-pronged approach to sensible gun safety reform, the Worthington City Council respectfully requests that the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) develop and execute a plan to divest itself from firearms-related investments.

The City of Worthington is a Central Ohio municipality with approximately 250 contributing OPERS members. For the period of 01/01/2016 through 12/31/2016 City of Worthington and our OPERS members were responsible for over 1.6 million dollars of contributions to OPERS.

The concept of divesting from firearms holdings is not a novel idea. In 2013, the California State Teachers Retirement System voted unanimously to begin a formal process of divesting holdings in firearms manufacturers. More recently, the Florida teachers union has suggested that the state pension fund divest itself of shares American Outdoor Brands, manufacturer of the AR-15 rifle. And closer to home, the State of Michigan Retirement System, which manages \$70 billion in pensions, recently sold its holdings in Olin Corp. ("Michigan Dumps Its Gun Shares," Bloomberg, 3/1/18). We believe these precedents demonstrate the feasibility and means of meaningful divestment action.

Further, it should be noted that the Iran and Sudan Divestment Policy, ORC § 145.11, adopted in February, 2017, establishes a conceptual framework and legal rationale for how divestment of firearms investments could be formulated. This includes the objective of "establishing a goal of reducing investment exposure to the potentially unique risks associated with investments in companies with ties to Iran and Sudan

when comparable investments offering similar quality, return and safety are available." The City of Worthington asks that you consider adopting a firearms divestment policy using a similar underlying rationale of mitigating risk.

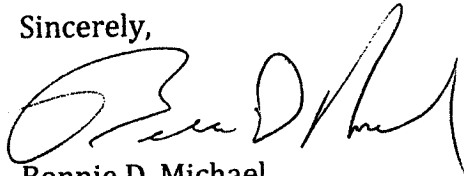
Additionally, the Iran and Sudan Divestment Policy, ORC § 145.11 (B) provides that:

In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with respect to the investment of the funds, it shall be the intent of the Board to give consideration to investments that enhance the general welfare of the state and its citizens (emphasis added) where the investments offer quality, return and safety comparable to other investments currently available to the Board.

If special consideration may be given to investments to improve the welfare of the state, then certainly we (OPERS) may pay particular attention as to whether our investments enhance or degrade the welfare of our members by addressing the issue of gun safety.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and urgent issue. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bonnie D. Michael', written in a cursive style.

Bonnie D. Michael
Worthington City Council, President