



April 2026

AN ACT CALLING ON THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND BOARD OF  
REGENTS TO DIRECT THE USMF FOR DIVESTMENT FROM ARMS  
MANUFACTURERS, TRANSPARENCY, AND ETHICAL INVESTMENT REFORM

*Passed at the USMSC General Body Meeting May 3, 2026 - 4 aye, 1 nay, 3 abstain*

1. **WHEREAS**, University System of Maryland Foundation (USMF) manages the over \$2 billion ([A](#)) Common Trust Fund, which is the aggregate of all the endowments of all universities in the system ([B](#)),
2. **AND WHEREAS**, the fund is used for designated purposes such as scholarships, special grants, and research projects ([C](#)) which directly support students and their institutions,
3. **AND WHEREAS**, the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents are fiduciaries over the Common Trust Fund and responsible for adhering to “socially responsible investment goals or strategies” according to the USM’s bylaws ([B](#)), but these responsibilities are not clearly defined or stated in the bylaws,
4. **AND WHEREAS**, the USMF has an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) statement, which is a set of policies to guide an entity’s impact on the world, and in their policy the USMF states that ESG, including human rights, is not a goal itself and only to be considered if they impact financial performance — “if that influence represents a material risk that the Endowment would not be able to meet its return objective, then that material ESG risk factor would have to be considered” ([D](#)),
5. **AND WHEREAS**, it is a fundamental responsibility of entities handling money to see ESG as a goal and incorporate it into investment practices rather than prioritizing profit, according to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment ([E](#));
6. **AND WHEREAS**, for years students from campuses across the System have called on their institutions and the System to end their relations with arms-producing companies and their consequential complicity in armed violence around the world ([E](#), [G](#), [H](#)),
7. **AND WHEREAS**, transparent and publicly accessible investment disclosure is a foundational component of responsible institutional governance and considered “best

practices” by the United Nations Ethics Office ([I](#)), and students, faculty, and the public have a legitimate interest in knowing how endowment funds are managed and where they are invested ([E](#), [G](#), [H](#)),

8. **AND WHEREAS**, the USM Board of Regents, USM Foundation, and USM institutions have adhered to student calls for divestment in the past as with the apartheid in South Africa in 1989 ([J](#)), the genocide in Darfur in 2006 ([K](#)), and have stated that the USMF does not directly invest in Carbon 200 Underground companies as of 2020 ([D](#)),
9. **AND WHEREAS**, peer institutions across the country have already achieved formal divestment from arms-producing companies, including the University of San Francisco, which divested from companies such as GE Aerospace, L3Harris, Palantir, and RTX following student demands ([L](#)); Lewis & Clark College, whose board amended its endowment investment policy to exclude direct investments in weapons manufacturers ([M](#)); and San Francisco State University, which adopted a human rights-based investment strategy that includes divesting from weapons manufacturers ([N](#)), demonstrating that divestment is achievable and that student advocacy is what moves institutions to act,
10. **AND WHEREAS**, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament that produces an annual list of the Top 100 arms-producing and military service companies in the world ([O](#)),
11. **LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the University System of Maryland Student Council calls upon the USM Board of Regents to commit to directing the USM Foundation to:
  - Publish a comprehensive, searchable list of all current investments and holdings on a publicly accessible platform, thus meeting widespread student demands for over a decade; and,
  - Divest the Common Trust Fund from any direct investments in the top SIPRI 100 arms-producing companies in the world, ensuring the Fund does not profit from human rights violations; and,
  - Commit to not investing the Common Trust Fund in any direct investments in the top SIPRI 100 arms-producing companies in the world; and,
  - Revise the USMF’s current ESG statement to commit to incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance factors into investment decisions always, not only when they impact financial performance; and,

- Adding a clear, outright commitment in the ESG statement that commits to not investing the Common Trust Fund in any direct or indirect investments in the top SIPRI 100 arms-producing companies in the world; and,
- Convening a formal meeting between the USM Board of Regents and representatives of the University System of Maryland Student Council within 90 days of the passage of this resolution, and no less than every six months thereafter, for the purpose of reviewing progress on divestment commitments and providing students a structured opportunity to voice concerns on investment policy; and,
- For the Board of Regents to specifically review the Common Trust Fund annually to ensure the USMF is incorporating and adequately considering Environmental, Social, and Governance factors.

Sources:

- A. <https://www.usmf.org/our-work/>
- B. <https://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII550.pdf>
- C. <https://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII530.pdf>
- D. <https://www.usmf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ESG-USMF-Statement-FINAL.pdf>
- E. <https://www.unpri.org/about-PRI/what-principles-for-responsible-investment#:~:text=Convened%20by%20the%20United%20Nations.markets%20drive%20positive%2C%20lasting%20change.>
- F. <https://alhikmahnews.com/2026/03/13/from-2017-to-2025-heres-a-history-of-divestment-bills-for-palestine-at-umd/>
- G. <https://retriever.umbc.edu/2024/04/umbc-sga-passes-resolution-endorsing-divestment-from-entities-complicit-in-palestinian-human-rights-violation/>
- H. <https://thetowerlight.com/students-protest-towson-foundation-decision-to-not-divest-from-companies-involved-in-gaza-conflict/>
- I. [https://www.un.org/en/ethics/assets/pdfs/FINANCIAL%20DISCLOSURE%20FACTSHEET%202020\\_03\\_24.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/ethics/assets/pdfs/FINANCIAL%20DISCLOSURE%20FACTSHEET%202020_03_24.pdf)
- J. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1989/05/05/u-md-moves-to-cut-ties-to-south-africa/089e7043-78e3-49a0-91c0-69b894f574c0/>
- K. <https://www.usmd.edu/newsroom/news/91>
- L. <https://www.kqed.org/news/12038385/usf-divests-from-defense-companies-tied-to-israel-after-pressure-from-students>
- M. <https://www.lclark.edu/live/news/56891-lewis-clark-updates-esg-investment-policy>
- N. <https://www.kqed.org/news/12038385/usf-divests-from-defense-companies-tied-to-israel-after-pressure-from-students>
- O. <https://www.sipri.org/visualizations/2025/sipri-top-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-world-2024>