

Resolution 2 - Submitted by RC10 NYSUT Urges that the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) to Divest from GEO Group Inc.

1 Whereas, the GEO Group Inc. (GEO), a Florida based company, owns or operates more than 130 prisons,
2 immigration detention centers and community re-entry facilities in the United States; and
3 Whereas, GEO has been accused of health and safety deficiencies by United States Immigration Customs
4 Enforcement in some of its sites; and
5 Whereas, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, an inspection of a GEO
6 group immigration detention facility discovered nooses hanging in cells as well as improper segregation;
7 and
8 Whereas, Amnesty International has expressed great concern over reports of human rights violations in
9 GEO facilities; and
10 Whereas, the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment includes the consideration of a
11 company's environmental, social and governance impact when acquiring stock; and
12 Whereas, the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board has sold its shares in GEO because of its concern,
13 in part, for the treatment of young people and children; and
14 Whereas, a company under investigation for questionable practices may put its shareholders' investments
15 at risk; and
16 Whereas, in June 2019, Illinois became the first state to ban private immigration detention centers and, as
17 of January 2020, California will ban for-profit prison and immigration detention centers in part because of
18 health and safety deficiencies; and
19 Whereas, the California Public Employees Retirement System (CALPERS), the largest public pension
20 fund in the United States is divesting from GEO; and
21 Whereas, the self-reporting on human rights abuses that the NYSTRS has requested from GEO is not
22 monitored by an outside human rights entity and bears no consequences that have been stipulated; and
23 Whereas, NYSUT is an organization of caring professionals who continually prioritize the well-being of
24 children and youth; and
25 Whereas, NYSUT members know the stress and trauma that abuse and mistreatment create, especially in
26 children and young people; and therefore be it
27 RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge NYSTRS to divest its shareholdings in GEO and other similar private
28 corrections industries.