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**An Act Calling for a Referendum on Whether the Student Body Should Demand that the University Divest from Companies That Facilitate Violations of International Law and Human Rights**

**S 25-03-05 D**

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1. **WHEREAS**, the Student Government Association (SGA) represents the student body at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); and,
2. **WHEREAS**, the SGA is committed to promoting “an environment of diversity, tolerance, and inclusion within the University community” as reflected in the duties and responsibilities of the Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion [[Addendum A](#)]; and,
3. **WHEREAS**, UMCP and the student body benefit directly from investments made by the University System of Maryland (USM) Foundation, an investment group responsible for managing USM financial assets and whose values include Integrity and Accountability [[Addendum B](#)]; and,
4. **WHEREAS**, UMCP and the student body benefit directly from investments made by the UMCP Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized to receive, hold, invest, and manage assets given in support of UMCP [[Addendum C](#)] which pools its endowment funds and contracts with USM Foundation for investment services; and,
5. **WHEREAS**, urgent human rights crises are ongoing in our global community, including, but not limited to those at the United States–Mexico border [[Addendum D](#)], the Philippines [[Addendum E](#)] [[Addendum F](#)], Yemen [[Addendum G](#)] [[Addendum H](#)], Myanmar [[Addendum I](#)], Guatemala [[Addendum J](#)], Sudan [[Addendum K](#)], and especially in Palestine [[Addendum L](#)]; and,
6. **WHEREAS**, having documented serious violations of human rights and war crimes, 16 human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, called upon the United States government and other parties to cease the transfer or sale of arms that would likely be used in the further commission of human rights violations in Palestine [[Addendum M](#)]; and,

7. **WHEREAS**, the consequences of these situations also affect the UMCP community directly, especially students whose families experience occupation, systematic discrimination, death, injury, and other forms of human rights violations; and,
8. **WHEREAS**, the USM Foundation and UMCP Foundation and, by extension, UMCP and its student body, may be invested in companies (such as Lockheed Martin [[Addendum N](#)], Northrop Grumman [[Addendum O](#)], BAE Systems [[Addendum P](#)], Elbit Systems [[Addendum Q](#)], and RTX Corp (Raytheon) [[Addendum R](#)]) implicated in these and other human rights violations, in violation of USM Foundation's principles of Integrity and Accountability [[Addendum B](#)]; and,
9. **WHEREAS**, UMCP students have utilized grassroots campaigns to change UMCP policies that maintain investments in companies that demonstrate a lack of accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others, most notably in the context of South African apartheid [[Addendum S](#)] and fossil fuels [[Addendum T](#)]; and,
10. **WHEREAS**, a diverse array of UMCP student organizations have also expressed their support of divestment from companies actively involved in human rights violations in Palestine [[Addendum U](#)].
11. **THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED**, that the following non-binding referendum shall be put before the student body alongside the SGA elections in Spring 2025:

Do you demand that the USM Foundation and UMCP Foundation divest from companies that consistently, knowingly, and directly facilitate and enable state violence and repression, war and occupation, or severe violations of international law and human rights in Palestine, Sudan, Guatemala, Myanmar, Yemen, the Philippines, the United States–Mexico border, or anywhere in the world?

**Petition Circulator:**

I have circulated this petition and believe all of the signers to be enrolled students.

[[Addendum V](#)]



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**Committees:**

Primary:

Secondary:

Vote:            In Favor: 25            Opposed: 5            Abstentions: 2

Therefore, the bill:            PASSES

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**Chelsea Boyer**

**Speaker of the Legislature**

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**Reese Artero**

**Student Body President**

**Action Plan:**

1. Lobby USM, the USM Foundation, UMCP, and the UMCP Foundation to demand those institutions and organizations to divest from companies that consistently, knowingly, and directly facilitate and enable state violence and repression, war and occupation, or severe

violations of international law and human rights in Palestine, Sudan, Guatemala, Myanmar, Yemen, the Philippines, and the United States–Mexico border, or anywhere in the world.

**Addenda:**

- [Addendum A](#) - Constitution and Bylaws of the University SGA
- [Addendum B](#) - The USM Foundation Mission, Vision, and Values
- [Addendum C](#) - Summary of the USM Foundation and its role within University functions
- [Addendum D](#) - Human Rights First's Submission for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants
- [Addendum E](#) - Human Rights in the Philippines
- [Addendum F](#) - U.S. arms sales and the Philippines
- [Addendum G](#) - Human Rights in Yemen
- [Addendum H](#) - U.S. arms sales and Yemen
- [Addendum I](#) - Human Rights in Myanmar
- [Addendum J](#) - Human Rights in Guatemala
- [Addendum K](#) - Human Rights in Sudan
- [Addendum L](#) - Human Rights in Palestine
- [Addendum M](#) - Human Rights Organizations call to stop arms transfers
- [Addendum N](#) - Lockheed Martin's contribution to war crimes and militarization
- [Addendum O](#) - Northrop Grumman's contribution to war crimes, militarization, and mass surveillance
- [Addendum P](#) - BAE Systems contribution to war crimes and chemical weaponry
- [Addendum Q](#) - Elbit Systems contribution to war crimes, mass surveillance, and border militarization
- [Addendum R](#) - RTX Corp (Raytheon) contribution to war crimes, mass surveillance, cruel weaponry, and internationally outlawed weapons transfers.
- [Addendum S](#) - Washington Post article on UMDs divestment from apartheid South Africa
- [Addendum T](#) - SGA organizes student protest calling on UMD to divest from fossil fuels
- [Addendum U](#) - Student groups expressing support for divestment
- [Addendum V](#) - SGA Petition