



General Assembly Resolution 27-03

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Sponsors: USG Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Annie Du

A Resolution calling Case Western Reserve University to fully divest from the Gun Rights lobby, weapons manufacturers, and defense contractors.

Whereas, Case Western Reserve University mourns the loss of the 14 high school students and three staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14th, 2018;

Whereas, the Gun Violence Archive reports an estimated 2,463 deaths have already occurred in 2018 due to gun violence; ¹

Whereas, Case Western Reserve University has been and continues to be directly impacted by gun violence, including but not limited to the May 9th, 2003 shooting at the Weatherhead School of Management which resulted in the death of a student, the July 19th, 2014 Wade Commons armed robbery, and the December 4th, 2016 fatal shooting of an unarmed CWRU Law student; ^{2 3 4}

Whereas, Case Western Reserve University condemns the use of violence in any way and has instituted a complete weapons ban; ⁵

Whereas, the Gun Rights lobby spent over \$10.5 million in 2017 to stifle gun control legislation; ⁶

Whereas, the influence of the Gun Rights lobby is largely derived from the \$16.8 billion in revenue gun manufacturers made in 2017; ⁷

Whereas, boycotts are empirically proven to be effective tools to create progressive change; ⁸

Whereas, #BoycottNRA and #NeverAgain have become national movements since the February 14th mass shooting; ^{9 10}

Whereas, Case Western Reserve University participated in a boycott of Sudan beginning in 2007 in response to the Sudanese humanitarian crisis; ¹¹

Whereas, the Case Western Reserve University Undergraduate Student Government has endorsed similar divestment resolutions in the past, particularly the 2014 Fossil Fuels Divestment Resolution (23-08) and its 2017 renewal;



Be it Resolved by the Undergraduate Student Government, acting in full session:

- I. That Case Western Reserve University issue a public statement in condemnation of gun violence and in support of a significant increase of Federal and State gun control and regulation;
- II. That Case Western Reserve University examine its financial assets to identify its investments in companies that:
 - a. publicly support and/or do business with the National Rifle Association (NRA) or any other GunRights lobbying organization,
 - b. manufacture and/or distribute any type of weaponry including, but not limited to, handguns, rifles, assault-style rifles, machine guns, sub-machine guns, shotguns, carbines, automatic rifles, bump stocks, and personal-defense weapons;
- III. That Case Western Reserve University instruct its investment managers to divest fully from the companies found in Be It Resolved Clause II, until said companies cease the practices identified in this Resolution;
- IV. That the President and the Board of Trustees of Case Western Reserve University immediately cease any new investments in companies that fall under Be It Resolved Clause II;
- V. That Case Western Reserve University work to ensure that none of its directly held or commingled assets include holdings in the aforementioned companies within two years of the passing of this resolution;
- VI. That the President and Board of Trustees release quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing progress made towards full divestment;
- VII. That this Resolution be sent in its entirety to the following persons or agents:
 - a. Every member of the Board of Trustees, including President Barbara Snyder
 - b. William A. Baeslack III, Provost and Executive Vice President (and his successor when hired)
 - c. Robert Clarke Browne, Treasurer
 - d. Bruce Loessin, Senior Vice President for University Relations and Development
 - e. Patricia Kost, Controller
 - f. Jonathan Carlson, Vice President for Financial Planning
 - g. John Sideras, Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
 - h. Timothy Milanich, Chief Investment Officer
 - i. Chris Sheridan, Vice President for University Marketing and Communications
 - j. Louis Stark, Vice President for Student Affairs
 - k. Marilyn Mobley, Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity



Endnotes:

1. Gun Violence Archive. "Shot - Wounded/Injured: incident type data." (http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/export-finished?filename=public%3A/export-2b4e13d0-bf3a-41cf-b3b4-47ab456489e9.csv&uuid=0484b316-f676-44bc-97ed-ecefeabae077&return_href=reports/mass-shooting%3Fyear%3D2017) Accessed: 2/26/2018.
2. Elizabeth Misson. "May 9, 2013 marks 10 years since shooting spree at CWRU left 1 student dead, 2 others injured." (<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/cleveland-metro/may-9-2013-marks-10-years-since-shooting-spreed-at-cwru-left-1-student-dead-2-others-injured>) Accessed: 2/28/2018.
3. CBS Cleveland. "Three teens now charged in armed robbery at CWRU; school increases security" (<http://www.cleveland19.com/story/26163702/three-teens-now-charged-in-armed-robbery-at-cwru-school-increases-security>) Accessed: 3/4/2018.
4. The Daily. "State says Case Western Reserve student unarmed when shot by police officer" (<http://thedaily.case.edu/state-says-case-western-reserve-student-unarmed-when-shot-by-police/>) Accessed: 3/4/2018.
5. Case Western Reserve University Student Code of Conduct. "Article 3 Clause A Subpoint 14" (<https://students.case.edu/policy/conduct/doc/codeofconduct.pdf>) Accessed 3/4/2018.
6. Center for Responsive Politics. "Gun Rights Lobby summary." (<https://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/indusclient.php?id=Q13&year=2016>) Accessed: 2/26/2018.
7. IBISWorld. "Firearm Industry at a glance." (<http://clients1.ibisworld.com/reports/us/industry/atagance.aspx?entid=662>) Accessed: 2/26/2018.
8. Forward to Freedom. "Boycott South African Goods." (<http://www.aamarchives.org/campaigns/boycott.html>) Accessed: 2/26/2018.
9. The Washington Post. "#BoycottNRA: Hertz and Avis are the latest companies to cut ties with gun lobby as movement gains steam" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/02/23/boycottnra-enterprise-omaha-bank-end-gun-lobby-deals-as-boycott-movement-gains-steam/?utm_term=.3ba38905df9c) Accessed: 3/4/2018.



10. USA Today. "These colleges don't care if you get suspended for #NeverAgain protests" (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/02/27/these-colleges-dont-care-if-you-get-suspended-neveragain-protests/376731002/>) Accessed: 3/4/3018.
11. The Daily. "Case adopts divestment policy; anti-genocide events to be held." (<http://blog.case.edu/casedaily/2007/10/12/casedaily>) Accessed 2/26/2018.