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H.C.R. No. 143

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The United States cannot hope to stop acts of
2 genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan without halting the flow of
3 money to the government of Sudan from public pension funds that
4 invest in United States companies doing business in that country;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Seizing power through a military coup in 1989, the
7 government of Sudan repeatedly has attacked and dislocated civilian
8 populations in Darfur, Sudan, in a coordinated policy of ethnic
9 genocide that has cost the lives of more than two million people and
10 displaced more than four million others; and

11 WHEREAS, The Center for Security Policy has determined that,
12 on average, the nation's leading public pension funds are invested
13 in 26 companies doing business in Sudan; the Employees Retirement
14 System of Texas investments reflect this average, while the Teacher
15 Retirement System of Texas has 35 such holdings, according to the
16 center; and

17 WHEREAS, The center also reports that the pension systems of
18 the Houston police department, the Dallas police and fire
19 departments, and the San Antonio police and fire departments are
20 invested in companies with ties to Sudan; and

21 WHEREAS, While it is unconscionable that any public pension
22 plan would, in effect, be rendering assistance to a nation that is
23 one of the top supporters of international terrorism, it is a
24 particular affront to police officers and firefighters that their

1 pension funds are willing to hold the stock of companies with ties
2 to Sudan; and

3 WHEREAS, Managers of Texas public pension funds have the
4 power to ensure that public pension funds are invested to support,
5 rather than undermine, our efforts to defeat terrorists, including
6 the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur,
7 Sudan; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby encourage managers of Texas public pension funds to divest
10 their portfolios of any stock in publicly-traded companies doing
11 business in Sudan; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
13 copy of this resolution to the executive director of the State
14 Pension Review Board for inclusion in mailings to the more than 200
15 active public pension systems in Texas.