



PRESS RELEASE

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FLORIDA GOVERNOR SIGNS IRAN-SUDAN DIVESTMENT LEGISLATION

AIPAC's Florida Regional Chair Carlyn Mayer released the following statement regarding the Protecting Florida's Investments Act.

"AIPAC applauds Florida Governor Charles Crist on today's signing of the Protecting Florida's Investments Act, landmark legislation that will divest Florida state pension funds from companies doing business with Iran's energy sector and the government of Sudan. We also commend Gov. Crist's decision to send a letter to his fellow governors across the nation, urging them to take similar action.

"The people of Florida are leading the nation in ensuring that the pension funds of the state's first responders and other workers will no longer be at risk by investing in companies subject to sanctions under American law which are working in countries that sponsor terrorism and threaten our security.

"With Iran continuing to defy the international community's demand to stop enriching uranium, it is more important than ever that every possible economic and diplomatic pressure is brought to bear on Iran to deprive it of the money it needs to pursue nuclear weapons. In combination with international actions being taken by the U.N. Security Council, America and our allies, individual states can play an important role in increasing the economic pressure on Tehran, in order to persuade Iran that plunging ahead with its nuclear program is counter to its own interests.

"AIPAC agrees with the people of Florida, and the vast majority of Americans, who do not want their money invested in companies who are providing the means for Iran to pursue nuclear weapons or to fund terrorism.

"By investing a state's public pension funds in companies doing business with Iran's petroleum and natural gas sector, state pension funds put their shareholders at financial risk because those companies are subject to sanctions under U.S. law. Divesting from these companies will reduce the risk to state investors while sending a strong signal to Iran that American states will not provide funds to help Iran advance its nuclear weapons pursuit and support terrorism.

"AIPAC commends the bill's sponsors, Florida State Senators Ted Deutsch (D-Boca Raton), Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach) and Don Gaetz (R-Fort Walton Beach) and State Reps. Ari Porth (D-Coral Springs), Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach) and Elaine Schwartz (D-Hollywood) for their efforts to secure the passage of this important legislation."

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