

Senate Bill #14

2025 - 2026

Divest for Humanity Act

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) are committed to the safety, wellbeing, and educational opportunities of students worldwide and in oppressed nations; and

WHEREAS, UNL has a moral imperative to divest from regimes engaged in apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and/or genocide; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory's investigation has concluded that Israel is committing a genocide in Palestine (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High-Commissioner); and,

WHEREAS, Israel has destroyed and bombed all universities in Gaza (Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor); and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a Resolution on September 18, 2024 that calls on states to take steps towards ending the "transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment to Israel, the occupying Power, in all cases where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (UNGA 7);

WHEREAS, there is a desire to consider how the University of Nebraska System can support the UNGA's Resolution in a meaningful way; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska System currently has over \$9,000,000 invested in the top 100 arms producing and military services companies in the world such as General Dynamics, Boeing, and Caterpillar corporations, listed from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which supply weaponry and military aid used to sustain the occupation, profit from violence against Palestinians, and manufacture the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, **alongside companies that facilitate and enable violations of international law and human rights in Palestine, Guatemala, Myanmar, Yemen, the Philippines, the United States-Mexico border, or anywhere in the world; and,**

WHEREAS, UNL students are concerned with the moral implications in investing in weapons manufacturers that are contributing to Israel's destruction of the Gaza strip and other actors' use of university-invested weapons such as the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan (Carter); and,

WHEREAS, the UNL's Role, Mission, and Values states that "many of the university's teaching, research, and service activities have an international dimension in order to provide its students and the state a significant global perspective" (UNL) and,

WHEREAS, the University claims a core value of "Stewardship of the human, financial, and physical resources committed to our care" (UNL); and,

WHEREAS, continued investment in these weapons companies contradicts UNL's stated values and undermines its responsibility as a global institution committed to ethical conduct, transparency, and integrity; and,

39 **WHEREAS**, ASUN is “sensitive to the needs of UNL students” according to ASUN Bylaws
40 (27), Section 3B; and,

41 **WHEREAS**, ASUN is a “strong advocate for minority and underrepresented student issues” to
42 ensure that all students are “afforded a safe, respectful, and inclusive university environment, and
43 challenge intolerance and misinformation” according to ASUN Bylaws (27), Section 3B; and,

44 **WHEREAS**, students at UNL have the rightful concern and desire to ensure that their university
45 system’s endowments are not invested in military violence and/or companies that violate international law
46 and human rights; and,

47 **WHEREAS**, one of ASUN’s purposes is to “serve as an agency through which the relationship
48 between the administration, faculty, and students” be maintained per Article II of ASUN’s Constitution
49 (1); and,

50 **WHEREAS**, continuing the University of Nebraska System’s investment in these companies
51 without a concern from ASUN contradicts ASUN’s stated values in advocating for the needs of students
52 and advocacy for underrepresented student issues; and,

53 **WHEREAS**, according to Board of Regents Policies, one of the primary investment objectives of
54 investing the endowment funds is to “consistently integrate environmental, social and governance factors
55 into investment management strategies, processes and practices in the belief these factors can benefit the
56 endowment’s performance and provide a qualitative impact consistent with the values, culture and
57 mission of the University of Nebraska” (RP-6.64).

58 **WHEREAS**, it is financially possible and sustainable for the University of Nebraska System to
59 consider changing and reviewing its investment policies to exclude weapons manufacturers from its
60 investment portfolios. Moreover, it is possible to do the aforementioned without harming the University
61 of Nebraska’s System’s profits by investing in alternative non-arms producing companies; and,

62 **WHEREAS**, divestment is a historic student movement associated with the divestment of South
63 Africa in the 20th century, and the University of Nebraska System has divested from certain fossil fuel
64 companies in 2025; and,

65 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED**, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska–
66 Lincoln (ASUN) urges that the University of Nebraska System change its investment policy to exclude
67 weapons manufacturer companies that provide weapons, military aid, and military technology ~~to the state~~
68 ~~of Israel~~ in order to make its endowment consistent with the values, culture, and mission of the University
69 of Nebraska and the needs of students.; and,

70 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, ASUN assigns the ASUN Executives to serve
71 as an agency and partner with Students for Justice in Palestine at UNL to discuss the viability of
72 divestment; to discuss the logistics in advocating for divestment at the University of Nebraska-System;
73 and to take steps towards recommending the Board of Regents to change the University of Nebraska
74 System’s investment policy to exclude the aforementioned weapons manufacturers ensuring that it aligns
75 with the policies of the Board of Regents while also reflecting the needs of students; and,

76 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY ENACTED**, physical AND digital copies of this bill shall be
77 delivered to the following recipients for the purpose of documentation and ensuring that all recipients are
78 aware of this new bill and the concerns of students and ASUN:

- President of the University of Nebraska System, Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold
- UNL Interim Chancellor, Katherine S. Ankerson
- Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Dr. Dee Dee Anderson
- Interim Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Interim Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss
- Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mark Button
- Vice Chancellor for Institutional Strategy and External Relations, Dr. **Matt Blomstedt**
- Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Dr. Jennifer Nelson
- Chief Financial Officer of the University of Nebraska System, Senior Vice President, and Interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, Anne Barnes
- Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students, Tyre “T.J.” McDowell Jr.
- All current members of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents (Timothy Clare, Jack Stark, Jim Scheer, Robert Schafer, Paul Kenney, Kathy Wilmot, Barbara Weitz)
- Current Student Regents for UNO, UNMC, UNL, and UNK (Drew Leisy, Brock Calamari, Libby Wilkins, and Sam Schroeder)
- Chief Investment Officer of the University of Nebraska Foundation, Brian Neale, and members of the Foundation’s Investment Committee

SUBMITTED BY : DEI _____ DATE: 1/28/2026

AUTHORED BY: Students For Justice in Palestine, Tia Chism, and Brittani Perez

DATE: 1/28/2026

FLOOR ACTION _____ DATE _____

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____