



March 8, 2019

The Honorable Rob Bonta
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 33 (Bonta) State public retirement systems: divestiture from private prison companies
– SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support AB 33. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations. Many of our members are retired teachers or state workers.

AB 33 would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a private prison company, as defined. This bill would require the boards to liquidate investments in private prison companies on or before July 1, 2020, and would require the boards, in making a determination to liquidate investments, to constructively engage with private prison companies to establish whether the companies are transitioning their business models to another industry.

AB 33 would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board's fiduciary responsibilities established in the constitution. The bill would provide that board members and other officers and employees shall be held harmless and be eligible for indemnification in connection with actions taken pursuant to the bill's requirements, as specified. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

For these reasons, CARA supports AB 33 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation. CARA looks forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244