



JFACT

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Testimony by Robert Fishman on behalf of H.B. 5324

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My name is Robert Fishman and I am the Exec. Director of JFACT, Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut and the Treasurer of the Ct. Coalition to Save Darfur. Both charitable organizations thank you for raising and we fully support H.B. 5324 an Act Concerning Divestment of State Funds Invested in Companies doing business in Iran and Sudan.

Our organizations are also appreciative of the efforts of our State Treasurer Denise Nappier and her staff for proposing this critical legislation. At this time, 19 states have enacted Iran Divestment legislation or adopted Iran Divestment policies. A similar number of states also have legislation concerning Sudan as it continues its Genocide against its own people in the Darfur region of Sudan. Our neighboring states of New York and Massachusetts in addition to 6 other states are considering new Iran divestment legislation. At the federal level, our own Sen. Dodd through the Banking committee along with ranking member Sen. Shelby have passed S.2799 the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act and the House has passed 1327. House and Senate negotiators are now looking to reconcile the two versions of the bill and all indications report passage in the next weeks.

The goal of this legislation is to urge our State of Ct. to adopt terror-free investment policies. It is imperative that unsuspecting companies be told that divestment will apply for any businesses who are involved with the Iranian regime's petroleum and natural gas sector and the country's deliberate policy to become a nuclear power.

I would be very happy to try to answer any questions and thank you very much for your attention and your time.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fishman

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The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) is a statewide Association serving as a legislative representative for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations and their associated agencies, an advocate for the Jewish Community, a public affairs spokesperson and coordinator on statewide programs on issues of mutual interest and concern in the state of Connecticut and Israel