



STATE OF KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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May 2, 2024

University of Kansas
ATTN: Douglas A. Girod, Chancellor
230 Strong Hall
1450 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045

Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St.
Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL

RE: Compliance with Kansas Anti-BDS Laws

Dear Chancellor Girod and Members of the Board of Regents:

I am dismayed to see that students at the University of Kansas have been demonstrating in support of the murderous terrorists of Hamas and against the people of Israel. No doubt, they are also accompanied by non-student, outside agitators. Somehow, in this group's twisted thinking, Israel's justified response to the wanton murder and hostage-taking on October 7, 2023, has led them to side with anti-Semitic murderers and kidnappers operating outside the bounds of international law.

Among this group's requests is that the University "divest of all financial ties to the Israeli government, military interests and holdings, and companies that operate in, profit from, or aid Israel."¹ The purpose of this letter is to remind you that the legislature has already spoken on this issue. Had the protesters done even a modicum of research, they would have learned that what they are asking for is illegal.

On the matter of divestiture, state law is clear: "Israel is a prominent trading partner of the state of Kansas[;] . . . the state . . . , in the interest of the state's economic policy, should not boycott trade with Israel."² Specifically, the state (including any board or agency thereof), "may not

¹ KU Students for Justice in Palestine, *Tell KU to Divest from Genocide*, ACTION NETWORK (May 1, 2024), <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-ku-to-divest-from-genocide>.

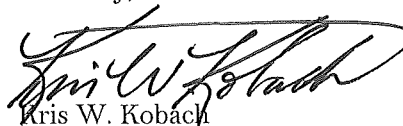
² Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-3740g (2019).

adopt a procurement, investment or other policy that has the effect of inducing or requiring a person to boycott the government of Israel or territories under its jurisdiction.”³ The Board of Regents and the universities under its control are bound by this language.

Thus, you cannot grant what these protesters, in their ignorance, demand. Nor should you even consider it. As is often the case with uninformed, petulant loudmouths, they have not done their research. And their views are reprehensible. I trust that you will not humor them.

The University of Kansas has many hallowed traditions, but siding with bloodthirsty, anti-Semitic terrorists is not one of them. I encourage you to enforce all applicable University rules and regulations so that the educational mission of the University is not disrupted. The taxpayers of Kansas expect and deserve the very best from KU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris W. Kobach", written in a cursive style.

Kris W. Kobach
Attorney General

cc: Kimberly M. Gruenwald, Interim Gen. Counsel & Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs

³ *Id.* § 75-3740f(b).