



## Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. CONGRESSMAN

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### CROCKETT URGES MICHIGAN GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT BILLS WITHDRAWING PENSION FUNDS FROM COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. (D-Michigan) has urged Michigan Governor James Blanchard to support and to endorse publicly the legislative effort in the State House of Representatives to remove \$2 billion in state pension funds from U.S. companies doing business in South Africa.

In a letter sent to Governor Blanchard earlier this week, Congressman Crockett and seven other Michigan Congressmen asserted that two House Bills, which would require the State's major public employee pension funds to divest those securities in corporations operating in South Africa, deserved the Governor's fullest support:

"...We feel that this legislation is an important and effective vehicle by which the residents of our State can demonstrate their abhorrence to the pernicious system of apartheid, and we strongly urge you to give it your public endorsement and support...."

The proposed legislation, House Bills 4770 and 4771, would cover those securities held by the State Employees' Retirement System, the Public School Employees' Retirement System, and the Legislative Retirement System. It would phase in divestiture over five years.

Congressman Crockett, who is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was one of the conferees who formulated the House-Senate agreement on the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985, which passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives on August 1, 1985. Joining him in the letter to Governor Blanchard were Congressmen John Conyers, Howard Wolpe, David Bonior, Bob Traxler, Sander Levin, Dennis Hertel and Dale Kildee.

A copy of the letter to Governor Blanchard is reprinted on the reverse side.

