

Dear President Saunders and Members of the Board of Trustees,

We, the undersigned, urge you to reconsider your agreement to sell the naming rights to the Florida Atlantic University football stadium to the GEO Group. As a coalition of Florida-based and national student and civil rights organizations, we strongly believe that FAU should not choose to compromise its values by allying itself with a company that has such a shameful record.

GEO Group, the second largest for-profit private prison corporation in the United States, is no stranger to public scrutiny. It has been the subject of numerous lawsuits involving injury or death of incarcerated and detained people, sexual abuse, and security failures. They have failed state audits and been fined by a federal agency for willfully failing to take reasonable precautions to protect the safety of their own employees.

Just last year, a federal judge harshly criticized the State of Mississippi for continuing its relationship with GEO Group despite serious mistreatment of young people at GEO's Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility, which the judge called a "cesspool of unconstitutional and inhuman acts." Not long afterward, Mississippi terminated the contract.

By naming your stadium for GEO Group, you make the university into a symbol of GEO's efforts, lend the University's name and reputation to legitimizing prison profiteering, and whitewash the Company's record of abuse and neglect.

Already, FAU has been scrutinized in news sources in the United States and abroad, including The New York Times, as well as local media throughout the country; and is the subject of three online petitions that have garnered many thousands of signatures. If this affiliation is not dropped, FAU will continue to be the object of ridicule and draw scorn with each human rights abuse that occurs in GEO Group's prisons.

Six million dollars is no small sum, but agreeing to associate GEO Group's brand with the university in exchange for this money raises the question: What is Florida Atlantic University's integrity worth? We ask you to rescind your agreement with this prison corporation.

Signed,

All of Us or None

American Civil Liberties Union

American Civil Liberties Union of Florida

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Beni Dakar & Associates

Brave New Foundation

Citizens for Criminal Justice Reform

Centro Maya Guatemalteco

Detention Watch Network  
DREAMActivist.org  
The Dream Defenders  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
Enlace  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Families of New Hampshire Inmates  
Families for Freedom  
Families Now Involved  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Florida Immigrant Youth Network  
Georgia Detention Watch  
Grassroots Leadership  
Gray Panthers  
Human Rights Defense Center  
In The Public Interest  
Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida  
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM, MN)  
Institute of the Black World 21st Century  
Justice Policy Institute  
Justice Strategies  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Morningside Civic Assn.  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Lawyers Guild  
N.C. Immigrant Rights Project  
New Sanctuary Coalition  
Palm Beach County Coalition for Immigrant Rights (PBCCIR)  
People's Advocacy Center for Training  
Prison Concerns Committee, Episcopal Diocese of NH  
Private Corrections Institute  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Racial Justice Action Center  
Responsible Endowments Coalition  
Student/Farmworker Alliance  
Students Working for Equal Rights  
Students United For Public Education  
South Florida Jobs with Justice  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United States Student Association  
United We Dream  
WeCount!  
Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry

El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center