

Submitter: Kris Nelson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB681

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 681.

I'm a self-employed taxpayer whose taxes support PERS investments.

I've learned that private equity funds often operate with limited regulatory oversight, making it difficult for public entities—such as pension funds and municipal investment programs—to assess the true risks and costs involved. Additionally, private equity investments tend to have high fees and complex structures that can erode returns over time.

Public funds, which are often responsible for the retirement security of government employees or the financial stability of local governments, should prioritize more transparent, lower-risk investments to ensure financial stability and accountability to us, the taxpayers. Moreover, private equity firms have been criticized for aggressive cost-cutting measures that can lead to job losses, reduced wages, and negative economic consequences in local communities. By reducing public investments in private equity, governments can promote more sustainable economic growth and protect public funds from being used in ways that may be contrary to the public interest.

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