

LD 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations. Hearing January 21st 2026.

Senators Baldacci, Beebe-Center, and Martin,

My name is Zoe Albion. I'm a resident of Bangor, a member of the Jewish Community, a member of the University of Maine Graduate Workers Union, and a former State of Maine employee. I'm writing to you today because I am in support of LD 1383 and I'm urging you to support it too.

Barely 100 years ago, my family members sought refuge from violence and poverty in the United States, just like so many of my immigrant friends and neighbors now targeted by ICE either implicitly or explicitly. When I was hired by the State of Maine in 2023, I reflected on that heritage, my role as a state employee, and what representing the state's interests meant for me. An area of great discomfort at that time was the associated pension. I knew that my future pension would be vested in many corporate entities that did not reflect my values, yet I felt disempowered. How could I possibly advocate for a pension that would serve me and my community? How could I retire in good conscience knowing where those funds came from, and at whose expense they were earned?

Though I recently left the Forest Service to earn a Master's Degree, this issue lingers in my mind and in my heart. Once I finish school, the outcome of LD 1383 will play a significant role in where I decide to seek work. I want to know that when I clock in each day, I'm investing in the future of myself and other Mainers; all of them, not just some of them. I want my work to embody the Jewish value taught to me by my immigrant relatives of the dignity of all people, and their right to respect and safety. To me, public service means transparency, accountability, and serving all members of my community. In its current state, the State of Maine's investment funds do not fulfill these tenets. I strongly urge the Legislature to pass Bill 1383 to divest from perpetrators of international human rights violations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Zoe Albion
Bangor
LD 1383

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