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Georgetown  
LD 1383

LD 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

January 21, 2026

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for your consideration of my testimony.

My name is Joanna Koller and I was born and raised in Georgetown, Maine. I am now raising three children of my own here. I work as a nurse in the local emergency department, my youngest child is four years old. I spend my working hours in the company of strangers, many of whom are experiencing suffering or devastating loss, and the remainder of my time seeing the world through the eyes of my little boy, for whom everything is wonderfully new. I find that this particular combination fosters a degree of bluntness, so I hope you will forgive me for speaking plainly.

I have very much wanted to write in support of LD 1383, but have struggled with this writing. It seems very clear to me that it is wrong to profit off of another humans suffering... what words could I possibly find to persuade someone who needs persuading?

I fear that we make monsters of ourselves by allowing or accepting things that are fundamentally wrong when we could make another choice. It is a failure of imagination to accept that some measure of suffering in someone else's life is necessary to maintain our own comfort. It is a failure to engage in any rigorous moral interrogation to not question where this comfort comes from, and at what cost.

In this world, which seems more unstable and precarious by the day, it is still possible to ask this question. It is still possible to invest instead in things which are hopeful, community oriented, and compatible with the future we want for our children.

Thank you for your time.