



Testimony in Support of LD 1383: An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable committee members; I'm Scott Turcotte from Community Action Alliance, a nonprofit representing Maine's immigrant community. On behalf of our members we ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD1383.

This legislation is an essential step in ensuring that Maine's government and its investments reflect the best values of our state. Mainers believe in justice, compassion, and standing up for those in need, at home and around the world. This legislation would make clear that we do not support, nor do we seek to benefit from, the worst human rights abuses happening in the world today - acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and war crimes.

Maine's largest city, Portland, and our largest professional union, the Maine Education Association, have already taken steps to divest their budgets and retirement funds from perpetrators of human rights abuses. Our state government has taken the lead on divestment efforts before. In 2021, we became the first state to legislate fossil fuel divestment - a major win for climate justice and public accountability. LD 1383 builds on that legacy. It would guarantee that Mainers will always prioritize human lives over war profits, and that Maine will continue to live up to our state motto and take the lead in the fight for justice.

We ask that you join us, our members, and Mainers across the state in standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1383.