

I am writing to oppose LD 1383 and to ask you to vote DO NOT PASS on this divisive and harmful bill.

As a Jew and as a rabbi I am deeply concerned that this bill, if enacted, distracts from the urgent needs of Maine residents. This bill allows for a range of definitions of genocide and fails to have the proper oversights and guardrails needed for decision making about complex international and foreign policy issues that impact our states finances in significant ways. Its implementation would cost our state money that instead *could and should* be used to fund childcare for working families and MaineCare to provide much needed healthcare.

LD 1383 distracts legislators and state administrators from the critical work needed to move our state forward and to support the real needs of Mainers. Improving and providing adequate funding for our public schools, funding health care and stewarding state funds to lower the cost of living for poor and low income people should be our priorities, not dabbling in foreign policy.

Whether or not this bill specifically mentions Israel, as a Jew, it feels targets Jews and Israel and this concerns me greatly. I urge the legislature to focus on the real problems in Maine – and not to insert themselves in foreign policy.

If you have any questions, I am happy to speak with you further about this issue. Again, I urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1383.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Lisa Vinikoor  
Bath, ME