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Belfast
LD 1383

January 21, 2026

Committee on State and Local Government

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

Good afternoon,

My name is Connie Jenkins. I'm a retired neonatal nurse practitioner and live in Belfast. Though I am not able to attend the Public Hearing, I am writing as a citizen of Maine to support LD 1383.

For more than 2 years, we've witnessed the genocide of Palestinians: slaughter, starvation, torture, mass displacement, destruction of homes and shelters. Within the last week, another infant, this one only 27 days old, froze to death in her family's flimsy plastic tent, a victim of Israel's siege that several American companies are complicit in. This could be your infant or mine. But she was a Palestinian, born in Gaza.

Shamefully, some of the companies making massive profits from the genocide are also making money for the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS), including Amazon, General Dynamics, Honeywell, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, Palantir and others

(<https://www.maineipers.org/investments/holdings-and-market-value/>). The critical role played by each of these companies is detailed on the Investigate website, a project of the American Friends Service Committee (<https://afsc.org/gaza-genocide-companies>).

To some degree, we are all complicit in the nightmare of Palestinian suffering. Israel's genocide has been bought and paid for by the United States using taxpayer's money. But there are things we can do as individuals, and as citizens of Maine, to make clear that the travesty of U.S. complicity is not in our names. A significant action is to divest

from any company aiding and abetting international human rights violations.

The State of Maine must not knowingly invest in and profit from genocide. Thus, I strongly urge you to support LD 1383.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.