

Dana Averbook
Portland
LD 1383

Members of the Committee,

My name is Dana Averbook. I live in Portland, and I am here in strong support of LD 1383, An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses.

I am a Jewish Mainer, and I am also a registered nurse in this state. From both of these identities- and from my professional ethics- I stand firmly in the belief that human suffering must never be a source of profit.

As a nurse, my role is to protect life, reduce harm, and care for people at their most vulnerable. Yet our state pension invests millions in companies like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Palantir—corporations whose weapons and surveillance technologies are used to kill civilians abroad and to fuel ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations here at home, including raids, deportations, family separations, and widespread violations of human rights like unlawful abductions and detentions. There is no moral or ethical justification for forcing Maine workers and taxpayers to be financially complicit in this harm, either domestically or internationally.

LD 1383 offers Maine a powerful opportunity to align our investments with our values. It allows our state to take a clear stand for human rights while also pursuing responsible, forward-looking financial stewardship. Investments tied to war, detention, and surveillance may generate short-term returns, but they also carry long-term financial risk, global instability, and lasting reputational harm. Profiting from violence is not a sustainable investment strategy.

As a nurse at Maine Medical Center, I see the consequences of misplaced priorities every day. Our healthcare system is under immense strain. Rural hospitals are closing, emergency departments are overflowing, and many of my patients are unhoused- even in the coldest months of one of the coldest states in the country. I am seeing rising cases of frostbite and preventable injuries because people are forced to live outside with no access to stable housing or basic care. No one should end up hospitalized for an easily treatable condition simply because they feared medical debt or had nowhere safe to go.

These are the real human costs of systems that prioritize profit over people.

LD 1383 is a step toward a different vision where Maine invests in life, dignity, and community well-being rather than in death, destruction, and mass detention. I urge you to pass this bill and choose investments that support families, intact communities, affordable healthcare, and a future where no one is disposable.

Thank you for your time and for considering this testimony.

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