

January 21st 2026-

LD 1383, An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to address you, my name is Aoife Dowd and I'm a resident of Portland. I'm writing to you today ***in support of LD 1383*** asking the state of Maine to stop investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

For the past two years, I have watched in horror, along with the rest of the world as the Israeli apartheid state commits genocide in Gaza. Backed by the power and dollars of the US, Israel has been given a blank check to operate with impunity as they level buildings, communities, refugee camps and murder children and families in the street. Now as I.C.E. arrives in our state to terrorize and abduct our immigrant neighbors, we are seeing in real time the violence this administration is willing to commit at home and abroad.

In the past few years, I've often felt powerless, as our representatives in Washington ignore our calls for ceasefire, arms embargos and abolition of I.C.E. It has become clear that for many of us the only form of clear recourse in our capitalist society is withholding our money!

Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS) funds are currently invested in companies that aid and abet international war crimes and domestic civil rights violations. Companies like Signature Aviation, who fuel and support I.C.E. flights and deportations out of New England and Boeing, who manufacture weapons of mass slaughter- used to kill civilians in Palestine. Divestment from these companies would represent about 1-2% of the total holdings in our state's \$22 billion pension fund, but would mean hundreds of millions of dollars out of the hands of war and fear profiteers.

These changes, would not only move the state away from complicity in genocide and the abduction of our community members, but would also align with already scheduled reductions away from risky public stocks. Maine has a long and successful history of divestment from apartheid South Africa, genocide in Sudan and fossil fuels, with our pension fund weathering these changes and even growing. We must stand firm as a state in aligning our dollars with our values. Not one more dollar should be spent to fund genocide and violence! I urge you to **support LD 1383**, thank you!

Aoife Dowd
Portland
LD 1383

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