

Ella Tabasky
Brunswick
LD 1383

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1383, a bill with a very simple premise: public institutions have a responsibility to uphold basic human rights while conducting their work, including how they invest public dollars.

I am Jewish and the daughter of a Holocaust educator. The lesson of Never Again was ingrained in me from a young age. I was taught that it was a moral obligation to oppose dehumanization and mass violence wherever it occurs. That obligation informs my support for LD 1383.

You have already heard (or will hear) from other Jewish constituents who mischaracterize LD 1383 as antisemitic. LD 1383 asks a narrow and responsible question: should Maine's public dollars be invested in entities connected to severe human rights abuses, regardless of where those abuses occur?

This bill does not single out Jewish people or Jewish identity. It establishes neutral, universal standards for state investments. Conflating this bill with antisemitism misrepresents both its language and its intent.

Antisemitism is real, dangerous, and on the rise. Using the charge of antisemitism to shut down legitimate policy discussion does not protect Jewish communities and undermines efforts to confront genuine antisemitism. Please do not fall prey to that trap.

Maine has a long tradition of aligning its investments with its values. LD 1383 continues in that tradition.

I ask you to evaluate this bill on its merits and ensure that Maine's public dollars reflect the human rights principles we claim to uphold.