

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 State and Local Government Committee: my name is Shaun Donnelly, I am a resident of Arundel and I am writing today to testify in favor 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.

This bill is about our responsibility to our neighbors, showing up with our values, and making investments that do not cause harm. Maine has an opportunity to ensure that the money entrusted to our state reflects the basic belief that every person deserves safety, dignity, and the chance to live free from violence and oppression.

The money in Maine's Public Employees Retirement System represents the work and service of our teachers, plow drivers, social workers, and so many others who give back to our communities every day. Those same funds are currently invested in companies complicit in grave human rights violations, including deportations, surveillance, and weapons used against civilians around the world. When we invest in corporations like Signature Aviation, which fuels ICE deportation flights, Palantir, which supports invasive data tracking and militarized surveillance, and Boeing, whose weapons are used in conflicts harming civilians, we are failing our neighbors both here and abroad.

So many Mainers work hard to build communities rooted in fairness, compassion, and respect. Yet our current investments tell a different story through supporting companies tied to genocide, apartheid, and inhumane detention. This bill is about more than numbers on a balance sheet. It is about whether Maine chooses to treat our neighbors near and far with the care and respect we would want for ourselves. LD 1383 is a chance to match our investments with our values, to step away from profiting from harm, and to stand on the side of human dignity. I respectfully urge you to vote yes on LD 1383 and thank you for your time.

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