

Claire Muscat  
Portland  
LD 1383

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee on State and Local Government:

Good morning. My name is Claire Muscat and I live in Portland. I stand here proudly today as a Jewish Mainer to urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1383.

Like many in my community, my family's history is defined by what happens when the world turns a blind eye to state sponsored violence. My ancestors fled modern-day Moldova because the legal and financial systems of their day were used to marginalize and eventually expel them.

Critics may attempt to frame this bill as a targeted attack or an act of bias. However, as you can see from the text, this bill is rooted in universal, neutral standards. It relies on the findings of credible international bodies to identify perpetrators of severe human rights abuses, regardless of their geography or identity. To suggest that a bill advocating for human rights is inherently "anti" any group is a disservice to the very principles of justice we are trying to uphold.

Maine has a choice: we can allow our state's investments to remain indifferent to suffering, or we can lead with our conscience. By divesting from entities that profit from state-sanctioned violence, we are simply saying that Maine's prosperity will not be built on the oppression of others.

I ask you to stand on the side of human rights and vote in support of LD 1383. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to speak.