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I am a very proud fifth generation Mainer, and even prouder of the fact that my son is a sixth generation Mainer. We decided to stay in Maine to raise our young family because of the values that embody Maine's culture, treating neighbors with kindness, dignity, and respect. Throughout my life I've seen Mainers of every political persuasion give the shirts off their backs and the food out of their mouths to help a fellow Mainer in need. My family has directly benefited from this kindness over the generations, including my great grandmother who came to Gardiner as an Irish immigrant to work in the mills in Gardiner. Without these values, I would not be where I am today.

Many have watched in horror as ICE raids have terrorized communities around the country. In less than a year we've seen extrajudicial murders of civilians, deportations of American citizens, and kidnappings of lawful residents, and racially & ethnically motivated targeting of families. All in the name of political retribution. This week, they have turned their sights to our communities and the terror is palpable.

To borrow a few words that have at times been attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a week that we pause to reflect on his legacy, "Budgets are moral documents". The way we choose to spend our money as a state, reflects the morals and values of Mainers. While we cannot directly bar ICE from entering our communities, by divesting from corporations that contribute to human rights abuses, we can ensure that we are not complicit with the actions of those that seek to sow seeds of chaos.

I urge you to support this bill to signal the Maine values of kindness, respect, and dignity for all people that I hope to instill in my young son.