

1/21/2026

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

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today. My name is Sarah Duncan, and I am a resident of Auburn, a high school teacher, and a supporter of the Maine Coalition for Peace and Human Rights. I am writing here to support LD1383, which will prohibit the state of Maine from making a profit, and investing state money into corporations that abuse human rights.

Watching ICE descend onto our community here in Maine has been horrifying, and knowing that so much money is being made off of these kidnappings disgusts me. Currently, the Maine state pension fund invests in corporations that make profit off of current genocides and also in corporations that fuel the majority of ICE deportation flights, such as Palantir and Signature Aviations. I can barely believe the cruelty we are witnessing in this country, as well as beyond, in countries like Palestine. I am a proponent of taxes in the name of a society that takes care of its people. However, by being invested in these corporations, my tax dollars, as well as yours and everyone else's, are going towards these crimes against humanity. Considering that these holdings only make up less than 1% of the pension fund as a whole, divesting from these harmful corporations seems like an incredibly minor ask in the name of doing the right thing. And, doing so wouldn't put our pensions at risk, either.

The United States is at a critical moment as a country — most of my students believe the country has been overrun by fascism and is doomed. I don't wish to believe we are doomed — and as a State, I believe that we can still strengthen what we offer our people at a time where so much is crumbling. Maine has been, and can continue to be, a beacon example for others to follow, such as when we divested from South Africa during the apartheid, and from Sudan in the midst of the Darfur genocide. We can, and should, continue our legacy of doing the right thing, by supporting this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Duncan
Auburn
LD 1383

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