Madeleine Hanna
ME
LD 1383

I am writing today to request the committee's support of LD 1383, a bill to end our state's complicity with funding corporations that profit from human right's abuses and are in violation of international law. I am aware that the Maine Public Employees Retirement System holds stock in companies that are contributing directly to genocide and inhumane detention of our neighbors. Our state has $19 million invested in Palantir, $10 million invested in Boeing and a $141 million fund with Signature Aviation shares. These are corporations that make weapons/technology for the world's genocides and wars and fuel our region's deportation flights. Their profit is a grotesque exploitation of our tax dollars and public resources.

My mother is a retired Maine teacher and I, her daughter, am an Arab American as my father's family is from Syria/Lebanon. For my family to know that MPERS is invested in corporations that profit from human rights abuses is devastating and appalling. It is difficult enough to daily witness these atrocities and feel unable to do anything to stop them but it is unbearable to think that we are directly contributing to and benefiting in any way from to the unimaginable suffering we are witnessing in Palestine, and Lebanon and even in our own communities. In Palestine and Lebanon the human rights abuses and genocide began long before October 7, 2023 and have nothing to do with defense of Israel. They are simply crimes against humanity the gravity of which has only increased exponentially as it has continued.

Our state's investment practices should be aligned with democratic principles of peace, justice, safety and equity for all. I'm sure there are better ways to create a fully funded pension for our state employees through investing in endeavors that contribute to the health and welfare of the citizens of this great state and make us proud, now and in the future, of how our tax dollars are being spent. I thank you for your in depth consideration of this very important matter.