

January 21, 2026

Re: 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 Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Honorable Members of the Committee on State and Local Government for allowing me to speak today. My name is Dr. John Devlin, and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth. I am here today to support LD 1383 to prohibit the State of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

I was deployed to the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh in October, 2023 by Doctors Without Borders. While there, and previously on assignment in South Sudan, I witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of forced displacement, armed conflict, and severe malnutrition on the physical and emotional well-being of vulnerable populations. Due to these experiences, I became alarmed by the policies of the State of Israel over the past two years in Gaza, which included direct attacks on hospitals and health care workers in their efforts to deliver life-saving care in the most trying of conditions, while lacking adequate supplies of equipment, medications, food and water. Along with others, I came to the conclusion that the purpose of Israel's conduct, including repeated displacements, forced starvation, and reduction of infrastructure to rubble, was ethnic cleansing and arguably genocide.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the use of my tax dollars in providing material and political support to the Israeli government in its ongoing assaults, continuing despite the so-called "cease-fire", and I urge you to pass LD 1383 to assure that Maine citizens are not complicit in these crimes against humanity.

Thank you.