

August Chandler
Portland
LD 1383

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am writing in support of LD 1383, to divest the state of Maine from corporations that invest in or profit from genocide and human rights abuses.

As a high school student in Portland, Maine, I have witnessed the terror that Immigration and Customs Enforcement has inflicted on my community. For many people my age, it is becoming increasingly difficult to safely attend school, run errands, or even protest under the hostile environment brought forth by the expansion of ICE. Exactly two months ago, Joel Andre, a sixteen-year-old boy and a Deering High School student, was detained by ICE along with his family. Knowing that Maine currently invests in Signature Aviation, a corporation that funds ICE detention flights like the one that brought Joel and his fourteen-year-old sister to a center in Texas, does not sit right with me as a community member and a human.

It is extremely important to me that my state refuses to hold stock in any corporation that disrupts the safety of my neighbors. The passage of this act is central to the humanity of those experiencing violence abroad and in our own state, and would only cost us 1% out of the state pension. I ask you to support LD 1383 with people who have torn from their families in mind. Thank you again for taking the time to review this testimony.