

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

January 21st, 2026

To the Committee Chairs Senator Baldacci and Representative Salisbury and members of the Committee on Local and State Governance - good afternoon and thank you for all your time and attention to this matter.

My name is Hannah Thanhauser. I live in South Portland. I am Jewish. I exist because my ancestors immigrated to the United States prior to the genocide that we call the Holocaust.

I stand here today in strong support of LD 1383.

A brief story for you: when I was probably four years old I remember walking into the Ames Department Store in Belfast with my mother - where I saw something I wanted. I asked my mother for it. Instead of answering yes or no, she replied, "Hannah honey, do you need it?"

The lessons we learn as children mark and guide us. I reflect on that question today and ask you - are these investments we truly need? Do we actually *need* to invest in genocide?

I feel horrified to think that the elders of our state are able to experience retirement in part because of investments in corporations that profit from the hunting down, surveillance, detention, separation, deportation, and killing of individuals - and whole peoples.

And here we are - in Maine - where this no longer feels far from home.

The day before yesterday, I visited my dear friends to bring them groceries - since they can't safely go to the store. They married two summers ago. They have two adorable small dogs, one of which carried the rings down the aisle. They both work more than full time. They are incredibly generous, caring, and kind. And they know - despite their legal status here - that they could be detained by ICE at any moment. Their eyes were red and puffy. I asked how they are sleeping. Not well. Up in the middle of the night, scared - every night. Scared to go to work. Scared to drive to the dentist. These are people who have survived so much, have beautiful lives here, and have made my life that much more beautiful and rich.

As adults, we don't often slow down to ask - do we actually need this? Is this the world that we want to build, to invest in? A place where our community isn't safe to buy groceries for themselves or get their teeth cleaned? You have an opportunity today to choose how we invest, what our answer is to tyranny, genocide, and human rights abuses - both globally, but also very much here in our home state of Maine.

Please vote to support LD 1383.