

LD1383: An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

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City: Cumberland, Maine

Position: *Support*

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 Jessica Everett, and I am a registered nurse living and working here in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of **LD 1383**. As a nurse, my professional responsibility is to protect life, relieve suffering, and treat every person with dignity and respect. Human rights and health are inseparable. To borrow from the Oregon Nurses Association statement following the recent killing of Renee Nicole Good, **“When state violence occurs, it is the nurses and other frontline caregivers who are called to respond to stop the bleeding, manage the trauma, and comfort families — to clean up the pieces after harm has been done.”**

LD 1383 asks Maine to ensure that our public funds are not invested in, or used to contract with, entities that are connected to states responsible for grave human rights violations such as genocide, apartheid, or war crimes, as determined by credible international bodies. This bill reflects the same ethical framework that guides nursing and public health: **do no harm**.

I have seen firsthand the risks associated with incarceration. As an emergency department nurse, I once cared for a young man brought in from prison days too late. He had faced medical neglect while incarcerated and arrived septic, fighting for his life. In chaotic, crowded environments—especially where people are dehumanized and devalued—care is delayed, and lives are lost.

Across the United States, this reality is playing out on a national scale. In 2025, at least 32 people died while in ICE custody—the highest number of deaths in detention in more than two decades. Additional deaths have already been reported in early 2026. These are not isolated incidents; they reflect systemic risks when oversight is weak and accountability is absent.

Supporting LD 1383 sends a clear message that our state's investments should reflect our shared values — compassion, justice, and respect for human life.

For these reasons, and from both my professional and personal perspective as a nurse, I urge the Committee to support LD 1383 and vote **ought to pass**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.