

Testimony in support of LD1383 An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Good morning, Committee members, all - thank you for listening to my heartfelt words in support of LD1383.

I am Diana Lapp from Portland. I am a physician and interact daily with patients affected by the uncertainty of their future, with the threat of detention and deportation ever present. Many of my patients fled to the United States for their safety and now they are fearful again. I see the harm that this does to families: families once thriving, now with no income, without sufficient food or funds to pay the bills, facing homelessness because they can't meet their mortgages. To bring it home: A father torn away from his family without notice, leaving a wife alone to care for their five children under ten. A high school student suffering depression, unable to see her father because ICE has whisked them to detention facilities out of state. A middle school student acting out as he struggles to understand why his father was deported. A father, who was gainfully and legally employed and was recently able to buy a new house for his young family, is now incarcerated, although he's committed no crime. This is not what Maine is.

As a family physician, I know and promote the importance of preventative and public health. I speak to a patient who misses their needed appointment too afraid to leave their house; she tells me her children aren't going to school either. This tears me apart. My patients' stories are stories of individuals and families that thrive in Maine, often after fleeing persecution elsewhere. And when they finally become citizens, I'm profoundly grateful and happy. But when I think of my tax dollars invested in the companies supporting the ICE surveillance and deportation flights separating these very same families, incarcerating individuals far from their home and support, I'm left in tears. How is this possible here in Maine? We need investment in access to health care for all Mainers, not in those companies known to support human rights violations at home and genocides abroad. This is shameful – we can and must pull our investments out of these companies now.

I urge you to stand up for human rights for all of us by pushing forward LD1383.

Thank you.