

Friends, neighbors, and members of our community,

We are gathered here today because Maine must take a principled stand for human rights—both here at home and across the world. Our state has a responsibility to ensure that not a single public dollar contributes to violence, oppression, or the suffering of innocent people. That means divesting from companies that manufacture or supply weapons used against civilians, and from corporations that profit from surveillance, deportation, and other practices that enable state-sponsored harm. At a moment when communities around the globe—especially Palestinians—are facing unimaginable devastation, Maine cannot remain complicit through its investments or its silence.

This commitment to justice must also extend to our own backyard. Maine should never be a place where ICE operates freely or where families live in fear of detention, separation, or deportation. Preventing ICE from establishing or expanding operations in our state is not only a matter of protecting immigrant communities—it is a matter of upholding the dignity and safety of every person who calls Maine home. We have the opportunity to model a humane, community-centered approach that rejects intimidation and embraces compassion.

As LD 1383 moves forward, we have a critical opportunity to demand that our state align its actions with its values. Divesting from companies complicit in violence, rejecting ICE's presence, and standing firmly for the rights and dignity of all people—especially Palestinians, Somalians, Latinos and other communities facing oppression—are essential steps toward a more just future. By showing up, speaking out, and insisting on accountability, we can ensure that Maine is not a bystander to injustice but a leader in defending human rights at home and around the world.

Thank you

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