

Mary McKone, Georgetown, ME

Statement Re LD 1383

1/21/26

Honorable Committee Members, good morning and thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of LD 1383.

I am a retired art teacher and a ceramic artist in Georgetown. I'm also the proud mother of two children and delighted grandmother of three beautiful grandchildren, all who celebrate their Palestinian heritage gifted by their father and his family.

In my years teaching in Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon, I became painfully aware of what it means to live under military occupation, of children fearing military raids on their homes, soldiers snatching their parents, siblings or classmates. I have lived in fear of my own children falling victim to the shelling and gunfire.

I never imagined that I might one day experience the same fear here at home in Maine. I fear for my own family, and for my neighbors' children as I watch people being kidnapped from their cars, homes and workplaces, as I hear about "security" being invoked to defend these crimes. These scenes are all too painfully familiar.

I am enraged that my state tax dollars would be invested in the companies that are not just assisting these crimes but intentionally profiting from them. Why would we invest in those who profit from our own persecution? We can and we must do better.

Please support the enactment of LD 1383.