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Re: LD1383, *An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses*

To the Committee on State and Local Government:

There are many reasons I support LD 1383, but I will focus on Maine's investments in corporations that contribute to genocide in Gaza, apartheid and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, and Israel's decades-long human rights abuses of the Palestinian people. Israel is a nation-state run amok. Because it has not been held accountable for its cruel and inhumane treatment of Palestinians, we, as concerned citizens, must do what we can.

I have been to the West Bank several times and have friends in both the West Bank and Gaza. I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of Israel's actions. Since October 2023, I have had near-daily contact with my young physician friend in Gaza.

Like so many others displaced by Israel's genocidal actions, Dr. Jihad Hasanain and his family have suffered from lack of clean water and inadequate nutrition. He has been uprooted multiple times seeking safety from bombing and now lives in a tent community on a beach near Khan Younis. Despite this, he continues to work as a doctor, provide for his family, and care for the poorest in his community. Like many others, his tent has been ripped apart by wind and rain—more than once.

**A message from Dr. Jihad, December 16, 2025:**

*In Gaza, we have moved past anger. Rage has been buried under grief, exhaustion, and endless loss. Now, all we fight for is the right to live—not with ease, but with dignity.*

*After all the death and destruction this war has brought, we no longer scream—we endure. With shattered hands and broken hearts.*

*We are tired of rebuilding tents, carrying mattresses and blankets for those who have nothing, only to watch the wind tear it all down and the rain wash away every bit of our effort.*

*We do not want revenge. We want rest. We want safety. We want a life where we do not have to rebuild from zero every single day.*

*Is that too much to ask?*

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Maine's continued investment in corporations that materially support these violations makes our state complicit in this suffering. LD 1383 is a necessary and moral step toward aligning our public funds with human rights and international law.

Thank you.

