

LD 1383, An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

January 21, 2026

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today.

Good morning and thank you for your time. My name is Josie Cressler and I live in Portland. I am Jewish and deeply involved with the Portland Jewish community. I am here to express my support for LD1383. Exile and forced migration have been an integral part of Jewish history and identity for literally thousands of years. My great grandmother, Lillian, was 10 when her family had to leave what is now Ukraine and immigrate to the United States. I never met her, but apparently she claimed she lived to 97 because she smoked a pack a day - I guess something's got to keep you going when you've experienced a trauma like that. I keep thinking about how her family left because of conditions so similar to the ones created now, here by ICE - disappearances, extralegal violence, and debilitating fear. I see my immigrant neighbors forced to leave their countries and look here for safety, just like her, only to face the same violences that she, and they, tried to flee. As a Jew, I am called by my ancestors to support this bill to disempower companies that allow for this violence here and human rights violations all over the world. When these conditions of violence are allowed, truly none of us are safe. Please vote in support of LD 1383.