

Good afternoon committee members, thank you so much for your service.

My name is Solhia Elmuhtari and I live in the Brunswick area. Migrants and Mainers of color are scared and regardless of our skin color, political or religious identities, we all must speak out against the erosion of law and the abuse of humans in and out of our state. And, especially since our money is profiting off of these abuses. The state currently has 19 million dollars invested in Palantir, a corporation that guides bombs into hospital maternity wards where mothers are currently in labor. The state is invested in a 140 million dollar fund with Signature Aviation, a corporation that maintains and fuels a majority of ice flights in America, including the flights leaving from Hanscom airport in Massachusetts where our Mainers are flown out of. We are literally profiting off of the fuel that makes mass civilian casualties and family separations possible. All we have to do is choose other funds or not resign contracts from funds that cause harm.

I took time away from my family and work to be here because I want my children to live in a better world. A world where their kindergarten and preschool norms apply to all adults as well. No one should be rewarded for harming people, my three and five year old know that. It makes sense that so many mothers are outraged and here today and we are happy to remind our state leaders that we should not be rewarding harmful behavior. Corporations that profit from the harm of human beings need accountability, not Maine's approval through our monetary support. With your help we can reduce our financial and legal risk and take a stance that Mainers do not support human rights abuses. Actually though, when you think about it, divestment is not taking a stand, it's about maintaining neutrality. Currently, Maine has taken a stance that it supports human rights abuses through the companies it is invested in. Neutralize our stance, divest from these harmful corporations.

My grandfathers fled Palestine after Israel began its ethnic cleansing of my people, and my heart aches seeing the continued suffering of my family and their suffering. As a Palestinian, I am here to say that LD 1383 is not about Palestine. There will always be a struggle like the Palestinian struggle if we do not pass laws that prevent us from profiting off of harm. LD 1383 is for all children living in apocalyptic conditions now and into the future. LD 1383 can prevent future harm by signalling to corporations that facilitating genocide and serious human rights abuses is not a viable corporate financial gain strategy. LD 1383 is Maine's way of saying "*hey corporate world, partnering with human rights violators is not profitable for you--investors are not interested in earning profit in illegal and morally harmful ways*". Sending that message is the least we can do and it will not harm our profits. Will divestment happen tomorrow, maybe, maybe not, all good things take time and there is a process involved. Just please help us start the process of change by voting ought to pass for LD 1383.

Thank you very much for listening and for your service.