

January 21, 2026

Testimony in favor of LD 1383

To members of the Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Lisa Savage and I reside in Solon. As a retired educator, I participate in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS).

To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: ***An investment portfolio is a moral document.*** It's important to me that the MPERS investment portfolio divest itself from investments in companies that profit from creating products that harm children and their families around the world.

As you'll hear from many in support of LD 1383 today, I'll share just one of the MPERS investments that troubles my conscience.

Palantir is a surveillance and data management corporation that is currently assisting ICE officers in Minneapolis to locate non-white residents to target with violent detentions. How does Palantir support this? It aggregates data like facial recognition technology and correlates it with addresses, phone numbers, places of worship, places of employment, and schools. This information is provided to ICE in order that they may kidnap parents dropping their kids off at school, people who are at work, or families at the places where they live. I imagine you have seen just how violent some of these arrests have been. And now we as a state are bracing for ICE to come in force to Maine.

It would perhaps surprise you to know that Palantir technology is also being extensively used to target civilians for extrajudicial execution in Gaza. When we see news that a drone struck an apartment that housed a pharmacist, her husband, and their child, killing all of them, many of us wonder how bombs can be so precisely targeted. It's well known that the Israeli occupation targets certain professional sectors of Palestinian society, with a special emphasis on health care providers and health care facilities like cancer clinics. Israel doesn't need Palantir in order to find a hospital, but an individual and her family at home are a different matter.

There are other investments in the MPERS portfolio that are equally troubling.

As a retiree from public service in Maine, I would like to be able to feel proud of the investments that fund my pension. Instead, I am ashamed. Therefore, I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1383.