

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, members of the Committee, my name is Carly Wittman and I live in Saco. I'm here today to urge you to oppose LD 1383.

I am worried about my safety in Maine as a Jew, and this bill is one of the reasons why, as it will inflame anti-Israel and anti-Jew hatred. I also work in public health, and Americans are suffering on a daily basis - older adults are experiencing rising levels of homelessness and many are forced to choose between paying for food, or housing - that's not even mentioning healthcare or medication costs.

I don't understand why we are focusing our valuable time and money on a bill that could be devastating to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. This bill will use taxpayer dollars to comb through human rights reports from international bodies that have a documented history of bias towards Israel in order to subjectively determine which countries and companies to divest from with no due process or resource for appeal.

There are real crises in the state that we need to address, like access to affordable housing, the rising cost of living, food insecurity, and access to quality, affordable healthcare. Instead of using limited resources to address those real crises, the state will squander resources on combing through human rights reports, making divisive declarations on foreign policy, and opening itself up to legal challenges for years, if not decades, to come. *Is that the future we should choose right now?*

This bill could force us to divest from American, Chinese, and other companies - like Apple, Cisco, Dell, General Electric, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and a plethora of others - thereby going against the Maine PERS' investment program's obligation to invest funds with "sound investment criteria...consistent with fiduciary obligations."

LD 1383 applies globally to publicly traded companies and plausibly reaches beyond traditional arms manufacturers into defense-adjacent

technology, AI, semiconductors, cloud services, communications, logistics, and energy—all core components of diversified index portfolios.

I urge you to focus on real community needs instead of moving forward with a divisive, damaging, and fiscally irresponsible bill that will hurt communities instead of helping them thrive.