

Maine LD 1383
TESTIMONY of Fateh Azzam, Georgetown, ME
January 21, 2026

Good day. My name is Fateh Azzam and I live in Georgetown, Maine. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about LD 1383, which I strongly urge you to move forward. This legislation affects me personally on two important counts.

I became a citizen of the United States in Portland, Maine in 1978. Throughout the years I have always felt safe and welcome in Maine, but today I am afraid. I'm afraid that masked gunmen on the street or at a routine traffic stop may single me out because I look brown, and whisk me off to some detention facility in Louisiana or somewhere. I'm afraid of having to spend months proving my citizenship.

My wife, whose family is from Fort Kent, and my children are imploring me to be careful, not go out alone, not live my normal life. This is NOT what living in Maine is about. The uncontrolled operations of ICE and Border Patrol agents around the country are violating human rights daily. I implore you to not help them do that in Maine.

My family is also worried about me speaking in public, as a Palestinian, about the pain I have been feeling in the last two and half years at seeing the genocide unfold in real time in my original homeland; and about the rage I feel knowing that my own tax dollars are funding the daily murder of friends and family. I know that these political decisions are made in Washington, but here in Maine we have the power to decide to cleanse our money of any investments that directly or indirectly fund or enable genocide anywhere in the world. We can divest our funds of any and all enterprises that immorally profit off war and the misery of others. I am a career professional in human rights law, and I tell you that it is a duty and an obligation not to be complicit in crimes against humanity and serious violations of human rights and, internationally and here at home.

I strongly urge you to ensure the passage of LD 1383.

Thank you.