

January 20, 2026

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

Good afternoon, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Kalyani Grad-Kaimal. I am resident of Portland, ME, a Jewish Mainers, and a strong supporter of LD 1383.

I moved to Portland just this summer, when my husband left active-duty military service and became a public employee in Maine. We chose Maine for a lot of reasons but prime among them was our belief that Maine would be the best place to raise our new twins. They were only 5 months old when we moved here.

We are excited to build a home and community where they can be safe as Jews and can stay safe, no matter who they grow to be. We love that Maine is an example for other states in so many ways.

However, I learned that my husband's pension, through the state of Maine is invested in companies that profit from horrific human rights abuses. Our family's future is now wrapped up in the success of companies like Palantir and Lockheed Martin and it makes me feel sick.

As a Jewish person, I have felt vulnerable and I have felt the power of solidarity. So, as a Jewish person, I have an obligation to stand with any community that is threatened with displacement, discrimination, and violence. I believe that this value exists in Maine as well.

We are lucky that this bill does not even ask us to risk our futures or our livelihoods. (Though I did have to risk my twins' second nap to bring them here from Portland and that is precious.) But it's well worth it since this bill represents a rare opportunity to affect these immoral companies and show the world that Mainers do not stand with genocide and deportation.

I strongly hope that you support this bill. Thank you so much.