

1/21/26

LD 1383, An Act to Require the State to Divest itself of Assets Invested in Corporations that Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Thank you Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee.

My name is Jessie Muldoon. I'm a public school teacher, and have been since 1998. I live and work in Portland, and teach Special Education at Deering High School. I am speaking today in support of LD 1383.

I try to teach my students that the way they treat others matters. That our actions make an impact on the world in which we live. I also work to make my students feel safe at school, and free to be who they are.

In the context of an increase in ICE activity in Portland that sense of safety and freedom is under direct threat. Knowing that a single penny of my retirement helps the deportation infrastructure is unacceptable to me. I didn't start teaching to make profits from an unethical investment portfolio. I teach because I believe in public education as a foundation for our democracy, and it would be hypocritical of me not to support full divestment from the likes of Signature Aviation, Boeing, and Palantir.

I believe that Maine can be a leader in this endeavor. I ask you for your support in moving towards responsible and ethically sound investments by recommending the passage of LD 1383.