

LD 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Dear members of the state and local committee,

My name is Mary and I live outside Augusta. I am here to ask you to support LD 1383. I taught public school in Maine for 30 years and I receive my pension through MEPERS. When I learned that part of my monthly pension comes from investments in companies that are complicit in domestic and international human rights abuses I felt sick. There are no financial or moral benefits to investing in these companies.

Over the years I had students from different backgrounds including immigrant families new to Maine. The thought that some of my pension could cause these families harm is causing me great pain and guilt. This is so wrong.

When I open my phone and watch children and families being harmed by ICE as well as children and families abroad experiencing genocide I question who we are. I want to hold onto my deep belief that Maine is a great state. That we stand for what is right. I know you all work hard to do what is right. As you discuss and consider this bill I ask you to follow something I use to ask my students to live by. And that is to cause no harm. How hypocritical I feel because every month I receive my pension I am causing harm. We should allow that guidance to lead us in our investments as well as our daily lives. Please cause no harm by supporting LD 1383 and divest from the companies that are causing such incredible violence in our name.

Thank you for listening and I urge you to support this important bill.

Mary Dunn

Maine