

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

Hearing date: January 21st

Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to share my voice with you today. My name is Hannah, and I am a resident of Portland. I am here in strong support of LD 1383, a bill that ensures our state no longer directs public dollars into corporations that engage in human rights abuses.

As a Jewish Mainers, this bill is deeply personal. It reflects my personal values and the values my community has carried for generations. I am the great-granddaughter of two holocaust survivors. My ancestors fled persecution in Poland, enduring horrific loss that has since been ingrained into my family. But it's not just us. Experience of human rights abuse has been seared into our veins as a people. It is my Jewish heritage that compels me to protect others from the same suffering we have endured throughout our history. I want my state to be a safe haven for those fleeing unlivable conditions, not a place to fear being sent back. Maine has a proud history of morally combatting human rights abuses and genocide, shown through the divestment from South Africa Apartheid and Sudan when it was needed most. Let us continue to prove that this is where our values lie.

After the holocaust ended, the world said "Never Again." Never again for us, never again for anyone else. I urge you to support LD 1383 and end our financial investments that are enabling inhumane atrocities to ensue. Allow us to put our money towards improving the world, not contributing to the abuse and genocide of its children.

Thank you,

Hannah
Portland, ME

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LD 1383

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