

Samaa Abdurraqib
Brunswick
LD 1383 Testimony

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government: My name is Samaa Abdurraqib. I am a resident of Brunswick – Senate District 23; House District 99. I am writing to urge the committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1383, an Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations.

I feel strongly that the great state of Maine should strive to remove itself from any dealings that bring violence and oppression to people and communities in other places in the world. Maine has a history of being on the vanguard and leading the nation in all sorts of innovations and initiatives. This divestment action would lead the way for so many other states and municipalities.

The Maine Education Association’s Representative Assembly has already passed a resolution calling on MainePERS to divest from corporations doing business with entities like Israel, who are surveilling and harshly violating human rights on an international scale. Passing LD 1383 would be a powerful expansion of this resolution.