

Leanna Bonds
Portland, Maine
LD 1383

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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 to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for reviewing written testimony. My name is Leanna Bonds, and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing to support LD1383 to prohibit the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

As a resident and worker within the City of Portland and State of Maine the safety of my community and everyone we impact is also extremely important to me. Currently, the Maine state pension fund invests in corporations that make profit off of current genocides and corporations that fuel the majority of ICE deportation flights, such as Palantir and Signature Aviations. My husband and I watch in horror as we see news of people being kidnapped on the street and flown out of the country without due process and families being bombed in Palestine. I do not want my tax dollars to contribute to these crimes. By divesting from these and other such holdings that make up less than 1% of the total pension fund, we could align our dollars with our values without jeopardizing our pensions.

There is no such thing as neutrality when it comes to human rights.

I want my state to align with my principles of peace and safety for all. Our state money should be a force for good in the world, not fuel corporations that aid in the detention of our neighbors and genocide.

With LD1383, investments that contribute to any country committing grave human rights would be illegal, making it easier for our state to align with our values and avoid contribution liability in international law. This bill provides an opportunity for Maine to assert its identity as a leader and role model in supporting human rights and practicing ethically and financially sound investment.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill. Thank you for your time in reading this testimony.

Sincerely,

Leanna Bonds

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