

LD 1383 Testimony

Robin Brooks

47 Ivanhoe Drive

Topsham, Maine 04086

To: Hon. Joe Baldacci, Hon. Suzanne Salisbury, Hon. Kristin Bishop, Hon. James Sargent

Thank you to the Co-Chairs and to the members of the State and Local Government Committee of the 132nd Legislature here in Maine. I am here to testify in favor of LD 1383. As a retired public-school teacher from MSAD 75 and a member of Maine PERS, I urge you to divest from businesses who are profiting off of human suffering and cruelty. LD 1383 addresses this blind spot in our state retiree's investment plan, and your committee can fix that blind spot if you vote to move this bill forward.

Yesterday was MLK Day. And as I reflected on Dr. King's legacy, I learned that he coined a term called "Creative Maladjustment", where we must not accept human cruelty whether it comes in the form of war, racism, or genocide. My childhood rabbi, Dr. Joachim Prinz, himself a holocaust survivor from Germany and a friend of Dr. King, extolled that we must not be silent. So, here I am today, speaking about this bill before you, LD 1383.

There is a lot of cruelty we are witnessing in our own country and much of it is beyond my power to do anything about. I know that those individuals who are bent on causing suffering to those they consider "other"—whether it be immigrants, a religious group, or people with a different skin color or gender identity—those people need financing to enact their dark missions. In closing, I am raising my one small voice to implore you move LD 1383 forward. Let us divest from cruelty and let our state take a collective step towards a more humane, just, and tolerant world.

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