

Ann Dodd-Collins  
Portland  
LD 1383

To Senator Joe Baldacci, Representative Tiffany Roberts, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government

I am writing in support of LD 1383, "An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations". I spent more than 28 years working for the state of Maine, for two school districts, and for one town. My MainePERS pension is my only source of income.

It grieves me that my pension is funded, in part, by investments of which I do not approve. I set aside part of my income each month to give to organizations which serve those who have less than I do. It is a cruel irony that I give \$50-\$100 each month to organizations working in Gaza while some of that money comes from corporations who support Israel and the many ways that country violates human rights. It does not have to. Studies have shown time and time again that socially responsible investments do just as well as investments in weapons and other forms of destruction. It is long past time for MainePERS to divest of investments that cause harm to humans, to other living things, and to our environment.

I urge you to support LD 1383.

Sincerely,  
Ann Dodd-Collins  
Portland, Maine