

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

Jan 21st at 11:00 AM

Thank you, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for considering my testimony today.

My name is Pier Franzen, and I am a resident of Portland, ME, the husband of a public employee, and a practicing mental health counselor. I am writing to urge you to support LD1383 and use the great power in your hands to intervene and stop our complicity in violence, which creates harm to perpetrators and victims alike, extending out through countless generations and across the globe.

As a therapist in our community working with individuals impacted by trauma, I daily bear witness to the impact of violence that is passed intergenerationally and devastates individuals, families, and communities that it touches. Violence harms victims, but it also creates moral injury and devastation to those complicit - whether consciously and immediately, or covertly and over time. As the spouse of a public employee who is part of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS), I am strongly opposed to the state choosing to hold stock in companies such as Signature Aviation, Palantir, and Boeing, that are involved in contributing to genocide and detention of our neighbors. Not only is this clearly a moral violation, but it is likely a legal one, according to the rulings of the International Court of Justice.

As someone directly connected with Maine PERS, I want my spouse to retire with a pension that is not built upon human rights abuses, and I believe there is considerable evidence this is possible.

There is an immense opportunity in this moment to take moral action and curb waves of trauma and violence that reverberate out from our direct complicity and funding of violence- please support LD1383.

Respectfully,
Pier Franzen

Pier Franzen
Portland Humanistic Therapy LLC
LD 1383

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