

January 21, 2026

LD 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee,

I'm writing in support of LD 1383 to encourage divestment from the state of Maine's stock holdings in companies directly contributing to human rights violations, both in our country and internationally.

My grandparents were survivors of the Holocaust. Both lived through concentration camps until they were liberated from those conditions and later immigrated to the United States with their children to escape continued religious persecution in Hungary on the basis of being Jewish. When my family members settled in this country, my grandmother was confronted with the racism that subjected her neighbors of color to be treated differently than she was simply because of the color of their skin. She refused to participate in racist actions, having directly experienced the atrocities that sowing division between community members based on identity results in. I write to you today in my grandmother's legacy, strongly advocating that members of this committee make a commitment to fostering a future in Maine which prioritizes safety and inclusivity for our community members rather than one that enables separation and violence. My family members were fortunate that they were offered safe passage to the United States when they immigrated here decades ago, but so many others fleeing human rights violations in other countries today are not afforded this same privilege and protection.

Investing the state's tax dollars into companies which contribute to violent migration control makes all Mainers complicit in funding unlawful detentions, war crimes, and state sanctioned violence. Fortunately, there is precedent of Maine altering its investment portfolio to better reflect the values our state holds. Mainers should have the right to contribute to our state's economy without our taxes being used to fund human rights violations, some of which are actively being carried out against our neighbors at this very moment.

I strongly urge that you support the welfare of Mainers and global communities through the passing of this bill. Thank you for your time spent reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,
Arielle Gross