

Hannah Grover
Freeport
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 reading my testimony. I am writing in strong support of LD 1383 to divest from corporations that contribute to genocide and human rights abuses.

My name is Hannah Grover and I live in Freeport. I am a Jew born and raised in Maine. I grew up hearing stories of atrocities that happened to my great grandparents. I come from a family that knows firsthand what happens when people sit by in silence as mass violence is committed. I cannot sit by in silence as our state continues to work with corporations that supply ICE with flights to deport our neighbors without due process. I urge you to support this bill so we can pull our financial ties out of corporations that are harming the most vulnerable of our population. If we can do anything to stop this harm, shouldn't we do it? We are being given a chance to do something in the face of horrific violence and harm. I care for a child and when I pick her up after school this week I don't know what to tell her - why the people with guns are there. I don't know what I will tell her when one day her classmate does not show up to school anymore. When her friends, who are teaching her to love and be loved by people who are different from her, vanish from the schoolyard, what will I say to her? When the masked people with guns show up to the playground I will tell her that we cannot play on the playground today because there are people here who are not kind, and we have to go home now. And when she asks why, a thousand times, as young children do, I will lie and tell her I don't know, because I do not want her to be afraid.

If I could have done anything to push for divestment from the people who made the weapons that slaughtered my family's village, I would have done it. I wasn't alive then. I am alive now.

Here is action you can take to stop some of this harm. Please, take it. Support this bill.