

January 21, 2026

Good morning Chairs Baldacci and Salisbury, and Members of the Committee On State and Local Government,

My name is Hadriane Hatfield and I am a graduate student at the University of Southern Maine School of Social Work. I am testifying today in support of LD 1383 - *An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations*.

This bill is personal to me, not because I or my family have experienced genocide or human rights abuse, but because I am a taxpayer. I understand that I will not agree with every decision the State makes with its funds; that is not the issue. The issue is that investments complicit in genocide and human rights abuse are not only especially egregious but directly contradict the State's constitution, which states that "All people are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are...life and liberty... property, and... safety and happiness." Whether human rights abuse and genocide are happening within the borders of Maine or outside them, but funded by us, investments complicit in human rights abuse and genocide are unconstitutional and unconscionable.

Maine has a history of recognizing its role in protecting human health and human rights and acting accordingly, divesting from industries including fossil fuels and for-profit prisons, and international governments committing human rights abuses including South Africa and Sudan. This bill's strength lies in its impartiality: it does not target one particular issue but instead creates a process for *continued* ethical stewardship of Maine's financial resources.

You have the power to lead Maine toward life, liberty, safety, and happiness for ***all people***. On behalf of the people of Maine, the people of the world, and all of our children, I implore you to vote "ought to pass."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hadriane Hatfield".

Hadriane Hatfield