

Natalia Jacobs  
Lewiston  
LD 1383

Maine, "The Way Life Should Be." One of my greatest joys living in Maine, is the people, the community, the way we care for one another. It is a place I have always felt accepted and safe. However, these past weeks I have seen my community, one often filled with the sound of chatter and laughter and people catching up with one another on the street, forced into a place of fear with the presence of ICE. People can't go to school, people can't go to work, people can't make their volunteer shifts to take care of their community. The streets are empty, quiet, and far from safe. We as a nation have seen ICE murder, kidnap, and abuse. One's legal status is irrelevant to them, and even if it was, nothing could justify their actions. Their presence here is truly terrifying. Here is home to some of the hardest working, most deeply caring, community orientated people I know. We have already been through so much and to see our community faced with another threat of violence is both heartbreaking and unacceptable. This is not the way life should be. Divesting Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations is a solidification of Maine's commitment to taking care of our neighbors and the greater world. It is our values of care and community put into action. In Maine, we show up for each other. Let's do so now, when it matters more than ever, by passing LD 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations.

Thank you for your time.