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Stockton Springs
LD 1383

My name is Jessie Mathieson and I am a resident of Stockton Springs.

I am here today to testify in favour of the bill LD 1383: An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

I have been horrified by the illegal and inhumane actions of ICE and the Department of Homeland Security. Just yesterday Mainers were abducted from our communities. These government entities claim to be operating within the law while revoking people's asylum status and then labeling those same people "illegal immigrants". They claim to be representing law and order while executing US citizens and being told they have complete immunity by the person with the most power in this country.

I was born and raised in Maine. I am married to an immigrant. When I moved back home and started caring for my disabled brother, my partner committed to helping me. We went through almost five years of immigration processes and spent thousands of dollars so my partner could care for a disabled citizen of this country. This is what immigrants do, they care for their families, support our communities and give back to this country. Many work in the same field as me, one of the lowest paid positions, providing direct care to our disabled and elderly community members.

Now we see our immigrant neighbors, vital members of our community, being torn from their homes and sent to concentration camps. It horrifies me that the taxes we pay and the investment portfolios of our retirement and pension funds are monetarily supporting companies profiting from these horrors. No company should be allowed to profit from breaking laws and tearing apart families like ours, families that just want to care for one another and live in peace. Families that have already gone through rigorous processes and intense hardships to be with one another.

I am here to show the people in this room, people with the power to define these kinds of relationships, that every member of our community is valuable, and we have a responsibility to protect the immigrants who live here. The federal government is acting extra-judiciously and it is up to local bodies like you all before me, to protect us from the encroachment on our constitutional rights. Right now it is up to you to listen to all the people who have given testimony today and help us take some of our power back on the state level. We need to remove any investments in companies like Signature Aviation, Boeing and Palatir, so we are not monetarily contributing to human rights violations. In this moment, we have the power to do at least that.

States have a level of autonomy in this country and our state has been targeted and bullied by a man who thinks he is above the law. We cannot let the unlawful and inhumane actions of this administration encroach on our state's right to decide where we invest our funds and how we choose to allocate our money.

Thank you for your time and please, I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD1383.