

Jessyca Matthews
Bangor
LD 1383

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Sailsbury and honorable committee members.

My name is Jessyca Matthews from Bangor. As a queer Mi'kmaq tribal member, a CNA for 10 years and a healthcare worker for 15 years. I care for everyone's well-being and safety regardless of age, race, gender or political stance. I believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, because we are all human beings just trying to live our lives. That is why I feel that is not only our ethical but our moral obligation to pass LD1383 to honor the basic human rights of peace and safety to all of our community by no longer investing in these corporations that aid in the detention of our neighbors and genocide. Just like the sister bill LLD 1971, preventing law enforcement from assisting ICE, we are obligated to care about the safety and well-being of our neighbors, regardless of their immigration status. Because no one is illegal on stolen land. The divested funds should be directed towards helping our community. Not going into the pockets of these billion dollar companies. It would not only give us a stronger community, but it would also reduce the legal risk that comes along with investing in these companies and ICE that are either aiding in war crimes, or actually committing them. As like so many others I have been experiencing so many emotions that come with the state of our country right now, so much fear and frustration. By passing this bill, we can help to negate some of those feelings. It won't eliminate them, but it will give lots of Mainers a small sense of relief. While also inspiring other states to do the same. Because "We the people" is a very strong concept in this country and if we all stand together we have an actual chance of saving this country from the impending doom we have all been feeling. We can stand for what's right, not only in this country, but others that are experiencing the horrors of genocide. We can benefit so much from passing this bill, while not putting our state in financial risk from these divestments. I urge you to please pass bill LD1383 for all of our sakes. Thank you.