

Sarah Miller
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LD 1383

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 hearing and receiving testimony on this bill. Although I am not able to testify in person today, the passage of this bill is something I care deeply about and which is aligned with my values as someone committed to human rights and dignity for all, both in Maine and around the world.

I have been shocked and disturbed to learn about the ways that states, including Maine, support genocide and human rights abuses around the world and here in Maine through investments of state funds. As a mental health professional who has worked with marginalized communities for over a decade, including newly arriving refugees and immigrants fleeing conflict in search of safety and a chance to rebuild their lives, I do not want my tax dollars invested in a way that contributes to violations of basic human rights for dignity and safety. Maine has demonstrated in the past that leadership in this area is possible through divestments related to opposing apartheid in South Africa and genocide in Sudan. Maine has an opportunity today to continue to be a leader in this area by divesting in funds that support ICE targeting members of our communities, genocide in Palestine, and other human rights abuses that go against many of my core values, and values that I believe are central to many Mainers. I ask that you support this bill in order to take a clear stand and send a message that Maine values and respects human rights, dignity, and a more peaceful world where communities around the world, as well as in Maine, can connect and thrive.

Thank you for your attention and support of this bill.