

Ella Nichol

Lewiston

LD 1383

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Regarding Bill 1383

January 19, 2025

My name is Ella Nichol and I am a concerned student and Maine resident. I am testifying to encourage the passage of Bill 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations.

I deeply love Lewiston, the city where I live and learn, and recognize on a daily basis the integral role that my immigrant neighbors play in this community. I am horrified at the blatant violations of human rights and dignity occurring across the nation, as the federal administration abuses their power to terrorize our communities and kidnap our immigrant neighbors off of the streets. The bill in question would require Maine to divest from companies like Palantir and Signature Aviation, which play major roles in fueling ICE deportation flights. It is sticking firmly with Maine's state values to uphold the dignity of every resident of this state – whether they were born here or arrived here later in life, anyone who calls Maine home is a Mainer, and the state government should act as such.

I strongly urge my state representatives to vote in favor of Bill 1383 and affirm Maine's ethical obligation to avoid financial ties to human rights violations. Thank you for the consideration on the matter.