

January 21, 2026

*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 allowing me to speak today. My name is Rin Pastor, and I am a resident of Brunswick, and I am a part of the former Students for Justice in Palestine chapter of Bowdoin College. I have also done much reporting over the past year in the *Orient* on how President Donald Trump's executive orders, particularly those concerning immigration and ICE, will place international students in danger. I am here to support LD1383 to prohibit the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

As a student at Bowdoin College who plans to continue living and working in the state, the safety of my community and everyone we impact is extremely important to me. Currently, the Maine state pension fund invests in corporations that make profit off of current genocides and corporations that fuel the majority of ICE deportation flights, such as Palantir and Signature Aviations. My friends, family, and I watch in horror as we see news of people being kidnapped on the street and flown out of the country without due process and families being bombed in Palestine. I do not want my tax dollars to contribute to these crimes. By divesting from these and other such holdings that make up less than 1% of the total pension fund, we could align our dollars with our values without jeopardizing our pensions.

There is no such thing as neutrality when it comes to human rights, and we should follow our precedent from when Maine divested from the apartheid system in South Africa and from Sudan following the Darfur genocide by setting a standard going forward. With LD1383, investments that contribute to any country committing grave human rights would be illegal, making it easier for our state to align with our values and avoid contribution liability in international law.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill. Thank you for your time.