

David Robbins
Cushing
LD 1383

Good afternoon. My name is David Robbins. I'm testifying today in support of Maine Bill LD1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations.

NOTE: I appeared in person to verbally present this testimony yesterday, January 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. (the scheduled time); however, the in-person testimony was delayed until 2:00 p.m. and I could not stay that late due to prior and pressing commitments. Therefore, I'm submitting this written testimony herein.

Since 1967, the state of Israel has been occupying Palestine and the United Nations has passed over 43 resolutions condemning this unlawful occupation.

Since 1991 the state of Israel has blockaded Gaza, and in effect, Gaza, is/has been characterized as the largest open air prison on planet Earth.

Israel's current war on Gaza, has killed over 70,000 Palestinians - including over 13,000 children, destroyed 2/3 of all structures, including hundreds of schools, universities, and hospitals, created an extreme humanitarian crises for the over two million Palestinians trying to survive in their blockaded homeland without adequate food, water, heat, shelter, or medical care.

Like many of us here today I'm opposed to violence, I'm opposed to injustice, and I'm opposed to imperialism.

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory has found that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Our US tax dollars have directly supported that genocide. This is unconscionable. We in Maine have a moral responsibility to take concerted action to end this catastrophic brutality. If our US Congress and Executive branch won't act, we can take a stand that will make a difference.

If Maine Bill LD1383 becomes law, it will provide a means to make a powerful and effective statement and implement a method of voicing our cry and demand for peace and justice in Palestine and other places that are subjected to human rights violations, war crimes and genocide, including here in our very own country, where our sense of freedom and justice is being challenged every day, with the anti-immigrant and racist policies being perpetrated upon our country, in cities throughout the United States.

Maine can help lead the way in demanding accountability from entities that contract with and/or profit from investments with Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations.

I urge that we all do the right thing; stand up for peace and justice. Our state funds should never be used to support human rights violations; not in our name!

Thank you.