

January 21, 2026

LD1383: An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Thank you for your time today. My name is Sofia SanMarco, I am from Yarmouth, and I'm asking the Committee on State and Local Government to please vote in favor of bill LD1383 to require Maine to divest funds from companies that perpetrate international human rights violations.

To me, Maine is a place of grit and determination in the pursuit of living authentically; it is not a place of complacency or apathy. I find an inherent sense of humanity here that is more important than convenience, and an understanding that we are all working together even when ice and snow seem to isolate us from the rest of the world. This is a place where doing what is easy vs what is necessary is hardly a choice when two feet of snow is covering your driveway; and it was hardly a choice for me to defend this bill, with the knowledge that families in Palestine are being torn apart by bombs and bullets paid for by my taxes.

As a 32 year old woman, I'm at a time in my life where the pressure to have children is building exponentially, while the reassurance of eventual retirement is dwindling. In order to achieve either of these things, I must be part of a system that doesn't afford me direct control over how my taxes are spent. I have been working within this system, quietly and shamefully, without standing up against the way my tax dollars contribute to war and unimaginable violence. I do not want my hopes and dreams to be contingent upon someone else's being destroyed, and with LD 1383 we have the opportunity to show the world that Mainers will not continue to participate in this cycle of abuse.

Please do what is necessary, and vote in favor if LD1383. Thank you.