

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 the honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to send testimony. My name is Rev. Allison Smith and my husband is teacher in MSAD 51. I am a resident of Harpswell and member of the clergy of the United Church of Christ (most Congregational Churches.)

I am here to support LD1383 which prohibits the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

My church serves new Mainers who are contributing to our economy, our vitality, and our community. I have church members who are so frightened that they are not going to work or sending their kids to school because the ICE raids are so threatening. It is unconscionable that the State of Maine and teachers/state employees' pensions are making a profit off of current genocides and corporations fueling the majority of ICE deportation flights, such as Palantir and Signature Aviations. We should have absolutely no part in ICE's terror and the lack of due process in their operations as well as adding to violence in the middle east as families face being bombed in Palestine.

We do not want our tax dollars to contribute to these crimes. By divesting from these and other such holdings, we can do what Maine should do, stand with our values and for our neighbors.

There is no such thing as neutrality when it comes to human rights. 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 urge you to support this bill. Thank you.

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