

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1383

Delivered Wed., Jan 21, 2026 by

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As you consider LD 1383 I ask that you give thought to the fiscal issues involved – to the costs as well as benefits of what this bill proposes.

We are living in a time when hospital units are being closed in rural areas of the state, leaving people to die without available care; when special education programs are being cut, leaving children unable to get the education they need to grow to be productive adults; when families cannot afford the food they need as supermarket costs go up and support funds disappear. Under such conditions, and when foreign policy is in the domain of the federal not state government, can you justify spending dollars and time reviewing foreign policy related numbers already handled by the federal government and does it make sense to create a situation in which the state of Maine is likely to be sued for years, a situation in which Mainers gain nothing but the cost to many in the state is great? This year some towns, cities and counties have rejected budgets that did not focus on the immediate needs of their constituents. The voters have told you they are hurting. The state needs to spend its dollars and its time where the people of Maine are served, not hurt.

TD1383 seeks to achieve a better, more peaceful world for our children. I would like to suggest a way to work toward that goal without legislation or a large expenditure of funds. For years in Maine people with conflicting views worked together to solve problems. Today people do not know how to talk to each other. If we are to create the world the proponents of the bill claim to desire we need to talk to and with each other to create solutions. Achieving this goal requires effort

and perhaps some training, but little funding. You, as leaders, can set examples.

I hope you will focus where the need is greatest for the people of Maine you were elected to serve.

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