

Good morning,

My name is Régine Whittlesey and I live in Brunswick, Maine.

I would like to state that I support LD 1383, *An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses*

I am a retired school Teacher and I am appalled that Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS), makes the state complicit in human rights abuses by holding stock in companies that are contributing directly to **genocide and the detention of our neighbors**.

**Genocide? Today? in 2026?**

I am a US citizen, originally from France, and my parents have lived through fascism and genocide. 80 years later, we are still witnessing genocides, suppressing cultures, killing or starving children? That thought, that reality, keeps me awake at night! I can't do much personally but the beautiful state of Maine where I live, should be **a force of good in the world**, not fuel corporations such as Palantir and Signature Aviation, that aid in the detention of our neighbors and genocide.

As the former **President and now a member of the Board of Alliance Française du Maine**, I have worked tirelessly to building connections through French language and culture, helping our Alliance Française to be an **inclusive community hub** for learning and engagement. Maine has a huge francophone community of varied backgrounds (descendants of French Canadians, New Mainers coming from francophone Africa, European expats...) and it warms my heart to witness the exchanges, **connections and support between these different cultures**. I am proud to see **solidarity and fraternity in action**. And now, ICE is waiting at the door of some of our members, just because of the color of their skin?

Our state, my state, should align with our values and avoid to contribute to violation of Human Rights and international law.

Please, support this bill which shows our humanity. Thank you!

Régine Whittlesey