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April 27, 2023

Hon. Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair  
Hon. Representative Suzanne Salisbury, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
State House, Room 436  
Augusta, Maine 04332

RE: ***LD 1087, An Act to Remove Restrictions in the Provisions of Law Relating to No-knock Warrants***

Greetings, Senator Beebe-Center and Representative Salisbury,

I write to you today in opposition to LD 1087, *An Act to Remove Restrictions in the Provisions of Law Relating to No-knock Warrants*.

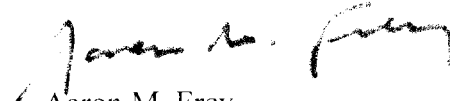
Warrants that may be executed without requiring law enforcement to announce themselves, so called "no-knock" warrants, have come under long-overdue scrutiny due to the role that the use of such a warrant played in the March 2020 death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency room technician, was killed by law enforcement during the execution of a no-knock warrant in the middle of the night as part of a drug investigation. This tragedy and the resulting examination of the process that permitted the issuance and execution of the no-knock warrant, compelled an evaluation of the utility of no-knock warrants in our own state. In particular, it led to the recognition that the risk of destruction of evidence did not outweigh blunt government intrusion into a residence.

I supported the 130<sup>th</sup> legislature placing reasonable limitations on the use of no-knock warrants and taking steps to ensure that there are clear and consistent standards in laws and policies governing law enforcement activity. With sensible limitations like requiring law enforcement to be wearing a uniform so they can be appropriately identified, I believe the remedies that the legislature saw fit to pass just two years ago have provided the appropriate balance between protecting the sanctity of a person's home from State intrusion and giving law enforcement adequate tools to do the job with which we entrust them.

Please let me know how I may be of service in this evaluation of the use of no-knock warrants and appropriate limits on their use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Frey  
Attorney General