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INVESTIGATIONS, INC.

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March 17, 2025

Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair
Representative Tavis Hasenfus, Chair
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
5 State House Station Room 436
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: LD 534: An Act to Clarify the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses
Regarding Professional Investigator Communications.**

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

I oppose LD 534

My name is Paul Rubashkin and I have been a licensed Professional Investigator in Maine since August of 2018.

I have varied experience in law enforcement having worked for Buxton, Hallowell, and Wiscasset Police Departments. My last assignment being the full-time Investigator at the Two Bridge's Regional Jail.

As a Police Officer and Correctional Investigator I honed a straight forward approach to interviews regularly obtaining confessions in a complex environment.

I now work extensively for defense attorneys conducting investigations in criminal cases.

I am writing this memo to give you a "boots on the ground" perspective of how I and many of the Professional Investigators I know conduct investigations.

My approach to every interview is to first inform the person who I am, that I am a Professional Investigator (not a cop), and that I would like to gather information about an incident they may have been involved in. I will often tell people that I want to know the good, bad, and ugly so I can give the attorney I work for the best picture possible of what happened.

I am often able to obtain more information than the initial law enforcement response was able to.

The laws that already govern Professional Investigators state that I cannot identify myself as a law enforcement officer and provide a mechanism to suspend or revoke my license should I violate this or numerous other requirements.

The steps required by LD 534 would make me unable to obtain information from any interview. Things I normally work into casual conversation would have to be a laundry list of requirements read to the person before ever asking a question. These requirements are much more restrictive than requirements placed on a law enforcement officer having a voluntary interaction with a person.

I have always believed in solving problems at the lowest level possible. Creating a law to address this issue causes many more issues than it intends to fix. I firmly believe that a short training would be much more appropriate than a new law that would negatively affect the clients I work for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul M. Rubashkin', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul M. Rubashkin
Licensed Professional Investigator
PMR Investigations, INC