



PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION OF UTAH, INC.

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February 15, 2019

The Honorable Lee B. Perry
Chairman
House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Standing Committee
Utah State Capitol Complex
350 State Capital
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5030

In re: House Bill 223

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The Private Investigators Association of Utah, Inc. (the "PIAU") is grateful to you and the honorable members of the House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Standing Committee (the "Committee") for your stalwart dedication to protecting vulnerable children and adults and the victims of domestic violence. Thank you for your continued service to our communities and the people of the state of Utah.

The PIAU is an ardent supporter of victims' rights. Professional private investigators throughout the state regularly engage in investigative activities focused on helping parents and guardians to protect their children from neglect, abuse and harm. Similarly, they also participate in investigative activities to protect and seek legal remedies on behalf of domestic violence victims. By their collective and cooperative efforts with legal counsel, the courts, and law enforcement authorities, professional private investigators help to mitigate harm and save lives.

We recognize that there is limited time in the legislative schedule to address all the important issues of the people and that the Committee and its honorable members time is valuable – we do not desire to further impose on your already demanding schedule. It is with these considerations in mind that we are writing you today to present our position on the H.B. 223 clearly and without offensive or unhelpful discourse.

Private investigators learned of H.B. 223 by way of searching the legislative online portal. The authors and supporters of the bill never reached out to private investigators to seek recommendations or discussion. The PIAU has attempted to negotiate a reasonable compromise to the language presented in the bill that would provide reasonable exemptions to the broad requirements presented so that private investigators may continue to use GPS tracking devices for legal, reasonable and prudent uses in the furtherance of litigation matters. Regrettably, the compromise language was rejected in its entirety and without recommendations for adjustment.