

February 13, 2023

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB290

Dear Chairman Smith & Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of the bill authorizing the IID to conduct independent prosecutions. Local prosecutors develop relationships with law enforcement officers with whom they have worked closely sometimes over many years. While prosecutors believe that they can maintain their independence when prosecutorial judgments and decisions are made, human nature tells us that the relationships will very likely color their judgment. Prosecutors must run for office and are thus subject to pressure from their constituents who may disfavor a decision to prosecute. Granting this authority to the IID does not deprive the local prosecutor the ability to move forward if the IID declines to prosecute.

The public will have greater faith in a decision made by an independent body following a complete and thorough investigation. Given the strained relationships between some segments of the community and the police, the grant of this authority is fully justified. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Cassandra R. Beverley, Esquire