

Good Afternoon Senator Sears,

I hope this reaches you well. I am writing to share that the Innocence Project is in full support of S.6 as it was just amended by the House Judiciary Committee this morning. We have been working with the House committee to address any questions and concerns. We are fully in support of the changes which make the bill better and more in line with other states.

Notably, the bill now establishes an absolute prohibition on deception for juveniles under 18. This is in line with legislation passed unanimous by Utah in 2022 and now unanimously by Indiana last month. Also notable, the Minnesota State Legislature is considering a proposal for an outright ban on the use of deception for all ages which has now advanced to a conference committee between its chambers.

I know there have been some concerns regarding the remedies for 18-21 under the bill from the Department of Public Safety. I wanted note that this language is in line with legislation already enacted in Delaware and many state laws regarding the admission of an unrecorded statement from an interrogation, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Montana, and North Carolina. As well, I know that the Chittenden County State's Attorney has written in full support of the bill as was passed.

I want to thank you for you continued work on this issue. Should you have question we can help address. Feel free to reach out anytime.

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