



**DEWITT COUNTY  
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January 8, 2021

Executive Committee  
Senate Chamber, Capitol, Springfield, Illinois  
Hearing date January 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

**RE: Objection to HB 163**

Dear members of the House and Senate,

As the elected State's Attorney for DeWitt County, Illinois, I wish to voice my concern and objection to HB 163. First let me say that I do believe that common sense reforms to the criminal justice system are needed in the State of Illinois. However, HB 163, in its current form, will have drastic consequences on the ability of police and prosecutors to protect the public. Such a wide-sweeping bill, with significant fundamental changes to existing laws, needs to be thoughtfully considered and not rushed into during the "lame-duck" session. The issues presented in this bill are numerous and deserve to be discussed at length so that the members of the legislature have a firm understanding of the issues and the ramifications of passing such sweeping legislation.

This bill, if enacted in its current form, will reduce the ability of police to gather evidence of crimes and protect the public. It will reduce the ability of prosecutors to prosecute crimes, protect victims and protect the public at large. Police, prosecutors, and victim advocates need an opportunity to thoughtfully review the numerous issues set forth in this 611 page bill and deserve the opportunity to have representation at the table to discuss these important issues with members of the legislature. I have no doubt that once all perspectives regarding this bill have been discussed, that a criminal justice reform bill can be put together that will improve our criminal justice system while protecting those persons that enforce our laws as well as our Illinois citizens that have been victimized. A rush to pass this legislation will only result in creating further unintended problems that will then have to be corrected with further legislation.

I am not asking for this legislation to fail and simply shelve the topics of this bill to be forgotten. Quite the opposite. I believe the issues raised should be discussed in an open forum during the regular session of the legislature so all concerns can be raised and appropriate compromises can be made to put forth the best legislation possible to protect the citizens of Illinois. Thank you for your time and continued dedication to protect the People of the State of Illinois.

Daniel P. Markwell  
DeWitt County State's Attorney