**Sample Support Letter**

Colorado General Assembly

200 E Colfax Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

***Re: Support of House Bill 20-1207***

***Concerning the Continuation of the Regulation of Private investigators***

Greetings:

I understand the Colorado Legislature is considering a bill to continue the current licensing program for private investigators ([*https://statebillinfo.com/bills/bills/20/2020a\_1207\_01.pdf*](https://statebillinfo.com/bills/bills/20/2020a_1207_01.pdf)and [*www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Private\_Investigator\_Laws#Rules*](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Private_Investigator_Laws#Rules)). Reversing the current status of licensing in Colorado would be harmful to consumers in Colorado, including attorneys and law firms. As a trial lawyer and litigation firm, we rely on licensed private investigators conduct a variety of tasks, which including sensitive interviews and information. Licensure provides confidence the investigator is vetted, trustworthy, competent, ethical, and knowledgeable.

As a [investigator / trial lawyer], our clients are those persons who require representation to include the confidential work-product and communications of licensed private investigators. There is also concerns of the potential for abuse of the general public, including our clients, being further victimized by investigations by persons not vetted and regulated by the current licensure program.

As was prior to 2015 without licensing, any person, including those with felony criminal histories, will have the unrestricted ability to conduct business in a manner which Colorado now regulates and prevents. These activities include obtaining sensitive personal information – personal identifiers – which access to is restricted to permissible purposes. These permissible purposes include being licensed and for civil and criminal litigation for attorneys. There are past instances of such persons obtaining sensitive information for use in stalking, identity theft, and aggressive behavior. Under the current licensure program, this activity is less likely, and any such unscrupulous activities can now be reported and investigated by DORA, with any appropriate disciplinary action if founded.

Licensing carries with it the benefit of higher levels of credibility, consumer protection, and professional standards. In fact, the regulation currently in place has elevated the level of private investigation in Colorado, and has given consumers – from citizens to attorneys and businesses – a recourse to report bad acts to DORA, or resolve them privately and outside the courts. Colorado’s licensing program is not complex or onerous. These criteria include:

 - Background check (FBI / CBI name and fingerprint) and jurisprudence exam;

 - Bond of $10,000 for consumer protection (our agency also maintains liability insurance);

 - Consumer contract requiring disclosure of services, fee, and verbal or written report;

 - Standards of practice for Conflicts of Interest, Confidentiality, Recordkeeping, and Advertising;

 - Prohibits use of any law enforcement equipment – uniforms, badges, emergency lights, etc.; and

 - Prohibits engaging in any illegal or unethical conduct, or discrimination.