



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

June 19, 2019

The 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 801, An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews.

LD 801 assumes that law enforcement can automatically identify someone as a witness in some particular matter. This is not the case. A law enforcement officer does not know initially if the person is a “witness” in the sense that they can testify in court to first-hand knowledge of an event they perceived, or if they just heard something second or third-hand that would not be admissible in court – or, for that matter, whether what they perceived was a “serious crime” or not a crime at all.

I am also concerned that requiring witnesses to submit to recorded statements will make people reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement. When an officer is speaking with the victim in a sensitive case, such as a sexual assault or domestic violence incident, placing a video camera or audio recorder in front of that person can be very intimidating and an invasion of privacy, especially as such interviews are often conducted in a hospital or home or shelter.

For these reasons I return LD 801 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor  
State of Maine



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