To The Chair of the Data Dissemination Committee:

I am an attorney at the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office. As such, I have level 20 access to the JISLink system. I also participate in a local legal aid program called "Drive Legal Whatcom" (DLW), which is part of LAW Advocates—the primary access-to-justice program in Whatcom County.

I write to request your authorization to use level 20 access as part of DLW. I ask you to extend the authorization to myself and a select few other local attorneys and trained volunteers. The purpose of DLW is to assist local individuals, who have lost their driving privileges due to unpaid fines, to regain their driver licenses by setting up payment plans with our local courts.

One of the tools we hope to use is the Department of Licensing's web page, "Learn How to Reinstate Your License." In order to use it effectively, we need each participant's Washington ID or driver license number. Since we anticipate a certain number of people will not have their license number, our hope is to obtain it using JISLink.

We also hope to use JISLink to access individuals' legal financial debts to Washington courts. We intend to provide that information—with DLW participants' permission—to Whatcom County courts when we request affordable payment plans to allow license reinstatement.

Please give this request your consideration at the earliest possible date, as our pilot program begins July 23, 2016. If you have any questions, I may be contacted at (360) 778-5673.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Jane Boman
Attorney, Whatcom County Public Defender's Office

Michael Heatherly
Executive Director, LAW Advocates