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23rd DISTRICT
SHERRY APPLETON

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PREPAREDNESS

April 16, 2012

The Honorable Justice Mary Fairhurst, Chair,
and Members of the Judicial Information Systems Committee
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Justice Fairhurst and Committee Members:

As you go forward with your Request for Proposals to modernize the Judicial Information Systems, I am writing to ask for your assurances that the process will accommodate future policy changes that may be considered by the legislature.

We have been repeatedly told that it would be very expensive to accommodate policy changes we have discussed – largely because of the difficulty in modifying your computer systems.

Some examples of the types of records that might be addressed in future legislation include: non-conviction records, vacated records, domestic violence restraining orders, or unlawful detainer actions. The rapid availability of these records continues to harm individuals, and it is likely the legislature will want to modify state policy around how they are handled, similar to the way family law, mental health records, and other records are treated.

As you modernize your computer systems, the ability to accommodate policy changes should, I believe, be built into the system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherry Appleton

Sherry Appleton
Representative, 23rd Legislative District

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