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From: Ayanna Eagan [mailto:ayannaeagan@gmail.com]
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I attended the March 2020 Legal Lunchbox Series class "Understanding Systemic Racism in the Law," with over 1,000 other attendees. It was very encouraging to see, at the very beginning, a video that featured two of our sitting Supreme Court justices, as well as other legal professionals, admit that it is well past time that lawyers and the judicial branch do more to acknowledge the legal harms caused by our biases, bigotry, and intolerances, and that we must take action to correct our mistakes and the mistakes of those who came before us.

Every single comment that has been made to this amendment, whether through this forum or prior forums in the past two years, is indisputable proof that this amendment is critically needed if our profession is to maintain its integrity in our democratic society. The lack of understanding of the structural problems in which we are forced to govern, as well as the visceral apathy for people and experiences that are not what someone is used to or comfortable with in their own practice, should be a grave warning that, should this amendment not be adopted, practices for lawyers and legal professionals will only continue to fail our most marginalized, vulnerable, and legally abused populations in WA state. To reject this amendment is an attack on the ethical principle and practice of fair treatment under the law.

I am extremely hopeful that our justices, publicly elected members of our state's governing body, held to the standard of serving all people and not just those of us who pay monetary dues for the privilege of practicing law, will take this opportunity to live our the commitment they made in the summer of 2020 to ensure a more equitable profession in our work ahead. I hope these justices have the courage, and the will, to do what is right for us all.

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Chair of the MCLE Board, 2020-2021
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