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**Subject:** FW: Reverse your decision to sunset LLLT license  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:33:12 PM

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**From:** Barbara Fischer [mailto:bjfisch1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Reverse your decision to sunset LLLT license

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Your Honors,

Please reconsider your decision to sunset the LLLT license. You already know there is a justice gap in our state in providing legal services to poor and low income citizens . The LLLT program is one of the ways our Court designed to begin to remedy that problem. We should be proud of this innovation, not destroying it. If there are problems in the program, fix them. Please don't throw the baby out with the bath! Some very smart legal minds spent many years developing this program and without it, there's a **BIG ZERO** its place. Washington's LLLT program is serving as a model for other states as they try to find new ways to address the inequities in the justice system.

I have been a family therapist for 38 years and know first hand what happens to spouses and their children who can't afford legal services.... for protection orders, resolving child custody issues and developing parenting plans or dividing assets in dissolutions. I've seen the rich get richer and the poor just keep getting poorer in the current system. It is criminal that low income people have to represent themselves and get such poor outcomes because they are at such a financial disadvantage.

I also know it's a waste of time and money for the court system when folks representing themselves have to keep coming back to court because they understandably don't know what they are doing. LLLT's are lessening the burden on the court system.

It's also incredibly unfair to the students going through the program that you changed the rules on them midstream. They've made a significant investment in time and money before you pulled the rug out from underneath their feet, giving them no chance to repeat classes or retake tests.

Frankly I think it is shameful the way you made your decision without public comment or inquiry and I believe it was based on the prejudice of a few attorneys who feel threatened by change. Our justice system has to change to deal with the systemic injustices built into it. Washington has been a leader in thinking outside the box to address this. Please don't close the

door on this innovative pathway to justice for our financially disadvantaged citizens!

Respectfully,

Barbara J Fischer, MSW, [retired licensed MFT]