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From: Stevenson/McBeth [mailto:jgsagm@frontier.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 4:29 PM
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April 25, 2021

To: The Supreme Court of Washington

From: J. Geoffrey Stevenson, MD. Professor Emeritus, University of Washington

The high cost of obtaining formal legal advice from an attorney prevents many from seeking legal services. The Limited Legal License Technician (LLLT) program has allowed access to affordable family law services. But, last summer, the supreme court voted to sunset the LLLT.

To me, that decision seems self-serving to the legal profession, and flies in the face of greater access to expertise – expertise often needed by those disadvantaged by economics and racial disparity.

In medicine we have enjoyed years of broadened access to medical care through the use of certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants, at lower cost to individuals and society. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants are highly trained individuals supervised by physicians who remain available if needed. Quality and access to medical care have only improved through their use, without loss of income for practices.

The advantage of a parallel system in the legal arena is obvious. I urge the Court to continue the LLLT program, and expand its scope of practice.