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Subject: FW: IRLJs Proposal
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From: Kami Benge (She/Her) [mailto:kbenge@evergreentreatment.org]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 7:45 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: IRLJs Proposal

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to inform you that I am in support of the IRLJ proposal. I have had personal experience in losing my license because I could NOT afford to pay my ticket fees. I had missed my court date due to going into early labor, so I couldn't even call the courts to try to warn them or cancel or try and reschedule. At the time, I was a part-time waitress and had to go on Pregnancy leave. I had no funds, and even after I went back to work 6 weeks later, I was behind 6 weeks behind on everything. I barely made enough to make ends meet as it was before I got behind and before I had to take care of my newborn daughter. Trying to get caught up was very slow. Luckily, I had understanding landlords who were willing to work with me, and I had access to some public benefits that really helped. But I barely made it, and did not have the funds to pay for my ticket, even 6 months later. Losing my license made life extremely hard. Taking transportation with a newborn baby to child care and then having to go to work via public transportation was extremely time consuming. It literally rode a bus 4 hours a day, 2 hours in the morning, 2 hours at night. I think the extra stress and lack of sleep was a huge factor in me being hospitalized for depression and other mental health crisis. I would have been able to make \$10 a month happen, but a one time lump sum right away was impossible. Anyways, I hope you pass IRLJ, as I don't want any other individuals to go through what I went through, especially new mom's who don't need a car to make time, appointments, and life a little more manageable. Thank you!

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