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Subject: FW: Comment in support of proposed amendment to CrR 3.2/CrRLJ 3.2
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:43:16 AM

From: Hopper, Madeline <mhopper@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:24 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
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Greetings,

I am a public defense attorney representing people accused of felonies in King County, WA. I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to CrR 3.2/CrRLJ 3.2, making deposit bail an option for all defendants posting bail in Washington courts. The proposed change would protect against the criminalization of poverty, and prevent the extraction of wealth from impoverished communities by bail bond companies.

In my practice, I see my clients trapped in jail at the whim of private bail bond companies if they do not have sufficient sureties to post bail, even when they have the ability to pay 10% of their bail. They turn to family and friends to post their bail through bond companies, and those community members do not see that money again. This wealth extraction is not reversed if someone is wrongfully accused or acquitted following trial.

I also believe that deposit bail would better serve the purpose of bail, to ensure the accused's return to court and compliance with conditions. If someone has the possibility of regaining their bail, they have greater incentive and hope to stay on track with court dates, release conditions, in order to be able to get their money back or make sure their friends and family get their money back.

The proposed amendment to CrR 3.2/CrRLJ 3.2 would serve justice and the fair administration of the court system, so I support it.

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