

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Public Defense Standards
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From: Bubblicious Pow <theycallmebubblicious@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 1:31 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Public Defense Standards

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Your Honors -

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to public defense standards. I am not an attorney, but I am married to a public defender. I have seen firsthand the hours my husband puts in at home after hours and on weekends to represent his clients. The dedication I see in him and his co-workers is a testament to their desire to fully represent their clients and ensure that their rights are protected and that every I is dotted and T is crossed. This dedication is despite the time it takes away from family and the added stress that results. As more attorneys have left the office I have seen firsthand the added stress on my husband, and I'm sure his coworkers, as cases have been transferred to them and their caseloads have ballooned.

My husband will never let a client go unrepresented and not do all he can for them, but I don't know how much longer he can continue to do that under the current workload he has to shoulder. To my surprise, my husband has started talking about leaving the job he loves and has done for over 20 years. I never thought things could be so bad that he would reach this point. If he leaves, then his office will again lose a very experienced and qualified attorney and have to further increase the caseload on others.

I urge you to listen to the public defenders who are commenting on these changes. They are experiencing this firsthand and truly want changes not for personal reasons but to ensure they can do the best for their clients. You should expect prosecutors, judges, and government officials to oppose these changes for adversarial and financial reasons. The fact that it is to the benefit of the prosecutor to keep public defenders overloaded should not be an issue. The fact that judges want to simply move things along as fast as possible should not be an issue. The fact that government officials care about money and not those who have their liberty on the line should not be an issue.

I strongly urge you to adopt the proposed standards. Despite what you may hear the sky is not going

to fall and the system is not going to collapse. Things will change and change can be hard, but the changes will also ensure that public defenders have time to fully work their cases to ensure that the Constitution is protected and that their clients are protected as well

Bub Powell