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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Public Defender Caps
Date: Monday, October 21, 2024 1:05:30 PM

From: Jim Sjothun <jdsjothun@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 1:04 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Public Defender Caps

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This is a REALLY bad idea that would have a serious negative impact on Washington residents and our criminal justice system overall.

Capping criminal caseload with our current level of criminal activity would mean many crimes would go completely unpunished because the Public Defenders office would be forced to prioritize which cases they can take. Therefore, lesser non-violent crimes such as DUI's, thefts and malicious mischief, not to mention felony level non-violent crimes.

We have seen in recent history what has happened when criminals know they are not going to be arrested. Shoplifters walking out of stores unstopped, resulting in merchants losing thousands of dollars, traffic violators refusing to pull over, etc.

Eventually, law enforcement officers would have their hands tied and be ineffective in protecting their communities, frustrated victims starting to take vigilante actions on their own in an attempt to get some form of justice, prices would skyrocket for everyone and businesses would cease to be able to function.

PLEASE do not allow these caps to take place.