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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Concerns Regarding Bar Association's Recommendation on Public Defender Case Load
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 8:09:25 AM

From: John Preston <prestojohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:42 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Concerns Regarding Bar Association's Recommendation on Public Defender Case Load

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Dear Honorable Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent recommendation from the Bar Association to lower the caseload for public defenders. While I understand the intention to improve the quality of legal representation, I believe this recommendation poses a significant and reckless danger to both society and the state justice system.

Public defenders play a crucial role in ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their financial means, receive fair representation in the legal system. Reducing their caseload without addressing the underlying issue, not having enough public defenders or providing adequate resources could have unintended negative consequences. Such a reduction might lead to a significant increase in delays, backlogs, and criminals being released back into society because a defender is not available. These criminals being released back into society to reoffend is not acceptable. The criminals need to be held accountable. These outcomes could disproportionately affect marginalized communities and undermine the timely administration of justice.

I urge the Court to carefully consider these potential repercussions and advocate for a more balanced approach that ensures both the well-being of public defenders and the effective functioning of the justice system. It is imperative that any changes made to the system are thoroughly evaluated for their long-term impacts and supported by adequate resources and planning.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the Court will weigh these concerns with the gravity they deserve as you deliberate on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Preston

prestojohn@gmail.com

6724 Highland Drive

Everett, WA 98203