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**Subject:** FW: WSBA recommendations about public defender caseloads  
**Date:** Monday, October 21, 2024 8:22:11 AM

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**From:** Krystal Rodriguez <krystallr@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** WSBA recommendations about public defender caseloads

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I'm writing in support of the Washington' State Bar Association's recommendation to reduce the current public defender caseload cap. Our state must uphold the Sixth Amendment by granting those charged with a crime the aide of counsel, if they cannot afford one themselves.

Reducing caseloads, however, will likely delay a defendant's right to a fair and speedy trial due to the nationwide public defender shortage. We feel this in Whatcom County. Our public defenders are overworked, underpaid, and do not have the space to provide services. Therefore, as the Supreme Court decides whether to accept these recommendations, I urge that it must be supported by additional state funds.

Sincerely,  
Krystal Rodriguez  
Bellingham resident



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