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Good afternoon,

My name is Makenzie Taber and I have been a public defender for a little over three years. Since starting at the Spokane County Public Defender's Office, my caseload numbers have been high. I moved to felonies almost two years ago where the work was more involved and the numbers were still too high. I love this work and I love my job, but I cannot continue to take on so many cases and still find joy in this. I worry that I'm nearing a burnout so early in my career. It really does feel as if public defense is facing a crisis as I watch more and more of my coworkers opt for other work just to get a break. I am in full support of a change to the public defense standards. It is necessary to preserve the integrity of public defense.

Thank you,

**Makenzie Taber**

Attorney at Law

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