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**From:** Mayrie Grimm <mgrimm@lvdef.com>  
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I own and manage a private law firm and provide public defense services for a few jurisdictions. I support the reduction of the caseload, and I feel that what is proposed is reasonable. However, I'm not sure how realistic the final proposed caseload will be. Over the last few years, I have struggled to find attorneys to fill positions that opened up in my firm. If the case load is reduced to the ultimate proposed number of 120 misdemeanor cases per year, this would require me have 27 attorneys on staff. I am located in Cowlitz County. We don't have attorneys or even new lawyers flocking here to live and work. But I guess that becomes the government's problem at that point.

I agree that things need to change, but I don't think it's going to be as easy as it looks. I have struggled with getting fair compensation and one that is competitive with our local Office of Public Defense. Being a private firm, I still am unable to offer student loan forgiveness, which does create some incentive for new attorneys to go where that is a possibility. Keeping attorneys employed to provide the necessary defense services has been a struggle at the current standard. Maybe a lower case limit will entice more young attorneys to do this work, but I am not confident.

In summary, I think the ultimate idea is reasonable, I'm just not sure it is realistic.

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