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Subject: FW: Comment on proposal
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 1:49:38 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Megan Murray <megelisemurray@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 1:45 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment on proposal

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposal to: 1. Lower the standard number of cases public defenders are allowed to handle per year; 2. Require increased support staff, including admins, social workers, and investigators; and 3. Expand the attorney qualifications for public defense work.

Our justice system relies on public defenders who are overworked and underpaid. Everyone deserves sound legal representation. These measures will help to improve the longevity of those working as public defenders and hopefully encourage more attorneys to pursue a career in the public sector. This is an essential component to reduce racial and economic disparity in our communities.

As an RN and now nurse practitioner, I have worked for nearly 20 years in public and private sectors of our healthcare system and seen the way that criminalization of disadvantaged persons traps them in poverty and homelessness. As a member of the American Nurses Association, I believe I speak for myself and other nurses that everyone deserves care and adequate legal representation- especially the disadvantaged in our communities.

Thanks,
Megan E. Murray, DNP, FNP-C