



Evergreen Public Affairs LLC

349 Sixteenth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-5614

July 18, 2024

Justice Mary You, Chair, Washington Supreme Court Rules Committee
and Members of the Washington Supreme Court

re: proposed changes to Washington Supreme Court Public Defense Standards

Dear Justice Yu:

I'm writing on behalf of the Washington chapter of the National Association of Social Workers to both (A) applaud the proposed change in public defense standards, especially as they recognize the value of Social Workers in public defense; and (B) ask that you align your standards with the definition of "social worker" in the revised code of Washington.

RCW 19.230 includes the degree requirement that you also include, but specifies that that degree must be from "a social work educational program accredited by the council on social work education."

We would appreciate it if your final adoption simply borrows from, or cross-references, the RCW, instead of leaving a slightly different definition for courts.

Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Bob Cooper
on behalf of the Washington chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

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