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**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WA State Supreme Court decision to cut back on public defender caseloads - Opinion  
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**From:** Penny Myers <wellspringofwater@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 26, 2024 7:08 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** WA State Supreme Court decision to cut back on public defender caseloads - Opinion

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To whom it may concern:

This is regarding the impending Washington State Supreme Court decision to cut back on public defender caseloads.

While I support reasonable caseloads for public defenders, I am very concerned about whether there's a plan to hire more public defenders and give them adequate compensation to encourage them to continue in that position in Washington state. Or perhaps there's a way modify how the cases are handled so that it's easier for individuals to defend themselves on certain types of cases (and not require a public defender).

Law-abiding citizens pay their taxes, pay their rent or mortgage and try to contribute to society. In recent years, however, it seems that Washington state does not wish to retain their law-abiding citizens and instead have been unleashing thieves, drug users, and violent individuals on the public through inadequate or complete lack of punishment of their crimes. If Washington state does not prioritize the safety and property of their law-abiding citizens, those tax-payers are going to exit the state and the state will be left with the reprobates of society.

In fact, my husband and I have frequently discussed exiting this state in favor of a safer place, where we aren't afraid to walk our dogs in a park because there's a bunch of homeless drug users in that park. We are disgusted by the theft that has caused stores to close, we are sick of the smash-and-grabbers that cause much repeated damage to our

local convenience stores that the owners can scarcely afford to keep repairing. It seems that Washington state has been rewarding the perpetrators of crimes and unleashing those perpetrators on law-abiding citizens.

Instead of releasing the accused out the public because the state can't provide a public defender, perhaps we can find a better solution so that Washington state doesn't sink further into crime when those (that are rightly) accused continuously commit the same crimes repeatedly because they know nothing will be done about it. It is very likely that vigilante justice will start replacing official law enforcement if crimes go unpunished.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this issue.

Penny Gano