

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Proposal for lack of public defenders
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 8:16:44 AM

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

From: Sharon Cooks <sammiecooks@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 9:44 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposal for lack of public defenders

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To whom it may concern,

I just read that there is a proposal to not charge accused persons due to a lack of public defenders. This is A BAD IDEA. WA state like so many other states has seen an uptick in property crimes, auto thefts, some violent crimes since the Pandemic in early 2020.

I'm an emergency room nurse and have taken care of rape victims, victims of highway shootings & victims of assault who had the temerity to resist someone trying to steal their vehicle. I am married to a police officer cadet who graduates in 5 weeks from aThe Law Enforcement Academy because he wants to help address these issues. The stories I've heard from other police officers about these types of cases far exceed my own.

If we begin releasing accused people who pose a risk to society because there aren't enough immediately available public defenders; I worry that even more police officers will retire or quit and the community at large will have an even bigger concern that reporting crimes is futile.

WA state needs to increase the pay of its public defenders in order to attract more lawyers. We should NOT be releasing these accused people to the streets where they can re offend & create more victims.

Very Sincerely Submitted
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Sent from my iPhone