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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: writing in favor of the public defense caseload changes
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2024 2:07:32 PM

From: Posnock, Sophia <SPosnock@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 1:58 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: writing in favor of the public defense caseload changes

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Dear Supreme Court Justices,

I am a public defender. I entered law school knowing this is what I wanted to do. I interned and volunteered with the office and started working as a public defender right after I took the bar exam in August 2017. Being a public defender is my passion and my identity. I can't imagine myself doing any other work. But for the past 7 years I've worried about the toll this job takes on my mental and physical health and my relationships. I had decided that there was no chance I could have children because I couldn't imagine juggling parenthood with working this much. I started to think of ways out, of other jobs or even leaving the legal field or taking a FMLA leave, so that I could catch my breath. When I heard about the caseload changes I felt hope for the first time. Hope that I can continue this path and not leave the profession like so many of my peers. We need good public defenders, and we need them to be able to meet the needs of all their clients within a humane work week. We need this change. I feel my clients, my family, myself, are all on the brink of survival and we so desperately need this change. Please adopt the new standards.

I listened to the arguments during the Board of Governor's meeting. The opposition was not surprising because change is scary. And so many, even within our own ranks, are afraid of fully funding public defense. Does that mean more trials and less plea deals? More people being able to exercise their constitutional right to challenge the case brought by the State? Of course the State will oppose this funding change. That comes as no surprise. But we have the opportunity to make this fight more fair. To give power to the people. There will be growing pains, but we will get through it. It is vitally important.

Sincerely,
Sophia Posnock
WSBA 52574
Attorney, SCRAP -D King County Department of Public Defense