This **sample letter** is intended for you to use in your communications with legislators and stakeholders. Feel free to use all the language or tailor it to your situation and add personal experiences. More resources, including talking points and FAQs, are in the [Legislative Communications Toolkit](https://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_bja/?fa=pos_bja.taskforcematerials).

RE: Support for the Court Security Matching Grant Program

Dear Representative or Senator (s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to you as a (Judge/Justice Partner) in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_county/city.

So many small and rural courthouses in economically distressed parts of Washington State do not meet basic security standards. State funding is needed to close the gap between what local governments can afford with their very limited revenue and small tax bases to ensure the safety of their courthouses in their communities.

Adequate security is particularly significant during these challenging times of heightened threats to the security of government buildings. Courthouses are the hub of civic life where disputes are resolved by the rule of law. Court proceedings can be emotional events and courts are reporting an increase in security disturbances and serious threats to judicial officers and court employees.

Please support this funding request to create the Small and Rural Courthouse Matching Grant Program so that courts in lower-resourced jurisdictions can hire private court security staff and purchase equipment for weapon screening, security cameras, duress alarms, and emergency notification systems that address the unique security needs of each courthouse. This funding of $2.5 million annually will give local courts and governments the resources to improve public safety in their courthouses.

We appreciate your attention to this crucial need to protect public safety in courthouses.

Full funding of this request will help provide equitable and safe court access to community members across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,