

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

Washington County Community Corrections supervises approximately 3,000 individuals in the Washington County jurisdiction and relies on the Court system to deploy evidence-based system practices to help engage our clientele in a meaningful way and provide the highest likelihood of success for them. The Courts are committed to behavior change within the justice system and recognize the need to make informed decisions to both hold people accountable as well as protect the community.

Our Court system has significantly strained resources which is compounded by the increased demand for services that only they can provide because of their judicial authority. A lack of continued judicial resources may compromise programming we value such as downward dispositional departures, specialty courts, and other key services as we see increased demands on the Courts and the justice system as a whole. It is in the best interest of the people we supervise, state budgets, and public safety for the Courts to be assigned additional Judges to serve community needs.

Community Corrections supports additional judges in Washington County because we see how strained our judicial workforce is right now and how this impacts opportunities for our clientele to successfully engage in court proceedings and programs.

Director Nate Gairan
Washington County Community Corrections