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**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
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When this letter is read I will no longer be working for DPD. I am an attorney at TDA in the felony division. I have worked as a public defender since June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, first starting in Pierce County. I worked nights and weekends for over 9 years. Now that I am a mom of a 5 year old and 16 month old I have come to a point where my quality of work or my quality of parenting is suffering. The caseloads are unsustainable at every level. At every level of being a public defender we are faced with high workloads, it is impossible to review all discovery and investigate all cases. In the face of the workload we also see and read about people's worse moment's. We muster up empathy at work to the point it is gone when we arrive at home.

There is attrition of the Class A attorney's but also look closely at the total lack of mom's in any felony division. We are few. The caseloads make it impossible. The pay does not make it worth it either to watch my children cry when I leave and ask if I can come home early- which I cannot.

I look back at me in 2014 and think of the late nights. I think of the weekend prep. I thought nothing of it then. A public defender is not a young person's game if you want skilled attorneys. Case loads need to be addressed to retain us.

Mom's are worth trying to keep.

Thank you,

Mia

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