

February 15, 2018

TO: House Appropriations Committee
FROM: House Judiciary Committee
RE: The Governor's proposed FY 2019 budget

The Judiciary committee has reviewed the memo regarding the Governor's proposed FY 2019 budget. We do not have concerns regarding the proposals identified as affecting our committee's jurisdiction. However, we ask that as you consider the Judicial branch budget and other relevant line items in the Big Bill, you keep in mind the priorities set by our committee:

- Timely access to justice and case resolution
- Assuring access to representation within the criminal justice system
- Assuring access to problem solving dockets and collaborative approaches to justice

Specifically, our committee believes that funding additional court staff is essential to the Judicial Branch meeting its constitutional obligations to provide remedy at law "promptly and without delay."

We are also particularly concerned that, in order to provide representation within the criminal justice system, the budget provide adequate funding for the Public Defender's Office, including Family Reunification Services and for victim advocate programs that support victims through the criminal justice process.