**Board for Judicial Administration Interpreter Services Funding Task Force**

Greetings Valued Partner in Justice,

We need your support in contacting your local legislators to support increased funding for court interpreters. If you have already contacted your local legislators, please send a follow up email urging their support for the following request from the Board for Judicial Administration.

The judiciary is requesting $2.1 million dollars this biennium to increase funding for the state Court Interpreter Reimbursement Program. This program currently only funds 20% of courts across the state. Timely access to credentialed interpreters is vital to ensuring that Washington Courts can meet the needs of individuals with limited English proficiency and those who are hard of hearing or deaf. We want to make sure that all courts have access to effective interpreter services, especially those in rural counties.

Please contact your local legislators from the following list by February 25 to ask them to support increased funding for court interpreters. We know you have many demands on your time and resources. Attached is a fact sheet and sample message that can be adapted with your organization’s information. Below is a list of legislators from the Senate Ways and Means and the House Appropriations Committees who may be contacted by email or phone. Here is a link to the [Legislative Communication Toolkit](http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_bja/?fa=pos_bja.taskforcematerials) for more background information.

We greatly appreciate your help. Please contact Jeanne Englert at [jeanne.englert@courts.wa.gov](mailto:jeanne.englert@courts.wa.gov) with questions.

**Sample Message:**

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

[Insert your individual or agency name] provides support to individuals as they have matters before the courts.

[Insert Name] supports the judicial branch’s funding need of $2.1 million for the state Court Interpreter Reimbursement Program. To meet growing demands, state funding will help courts provide quality and timely interpreter services that are critical to ensure fundamental access to justice for individuals with limited English proficiency and who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Timely access to credentialed interpreters is vital to ensure that Washington Courts can meet the needs of individuals with limited English proficiency and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Individuals can face severe consequences affecting safety, health, families, housing, and finances if they’re unable to access qualified interpreter services at the needed time in court. Availability of qualified interpreters from the beginning of a case can resolve minor legal issues before they become bigger ones.

Please prioritize these requests for funding during your decision making process.

Sincerely,

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTIES** | **FULL NAME** | **PHONE** | **EMAIL** |
| Benton | Senator Sharon Brown | 360-786-7614 | [Sharon.Brown@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Sharon.Brown@leg.wa.gov) |
| Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia | Representative Skyler Rude | 360-786-7828 | [Skyler.Rude@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Skyler.Rude@leg.wa.gov) |
| Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, Grant | Representative Mike Steele | 360-786-7832 | [Mike.Steele@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Mike.Steele@leg.wa.gov) |
| Clark | Representative Paul Harris | 360-786-7976 | [Paul.Harris@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Paul.Harris@leg.wa.gov) |
| Clark | Representative Larry Hoff | 360-786-7812 | [Larry.Hoff@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Larry.Hoff@leg.wa.gov) |
| Clark | Representative Vicki Kraft | 360-786-7994 | [Vicki.Kraft@leg.gov](mailto:Vicki.Kraft@leg.gov) |
| Clark | Senator Ann Rivers | 360-786-7634 | [Ann.Rivers@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Ann.Rivers@leg.wa.gov) |
| Clark | Senator Lynda Wilson | 360-786-7632 | [Lynda.Wilson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Lynda.Wilson@leg.wa.gov) |
| Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln | Representative Alex Ybarra | 360-786-7808 | [alex.ybarra@leg.wa.gov](mailto:alex.ybarra@leg.wa.gov) |
| Grays Harbor, Clallam, Jefferson | Representative Steve Tharinger | 360-786-7904 | [Steve.Tharinger@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Steve.Tharinger@leg.wa.gov) |
| Grays Harbor, Clallam, Jefferson | Senator Kevin Van De Wege | 360-786-7646 | [Kevin.VanDeWege@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Kevin.VanDeWege@leg.wa.gov) |
| Island, Skagit, Snohomish | Senator Barbara Bailey | 360-786-7618 | [Barbara.Bailey@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Barbara.Bailey@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Steve Berquist | 360-786-7862 | [Steve.Berquist@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Steve.Berquist@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Senator Reuven Carlyle | 360-786-7670 | [Reuven.Carlyle@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Reuven.Carlyle@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Eileen Cody | 360-786-7978 | [Eileen.Cody@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Eileen.Cody@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Joe Fitzgibbon | 360-786-7952 | [Joe.Fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Joe.Fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Senator David Frockt | 360-786-7690 | [David.Frockt@leg.wa.gov](mailto:David.Frockt@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Senator Bob Hasegawa | 360-786-7616 | [Bob.Hasegawa@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Bob.Hasegawa@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Zack Hudgins | 360-786-7956 | [Zack.Hudgins@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Zack.Hudgins@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Senator Karen Keiser | 360-786-7664 | [Karen.Keiser@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Karen.Keiser@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Nicole Macri | 360-786-7826 | [Nicole.Macri@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Nicole.Macri@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Senator Jamie Pedersen | 360-786-7628 | [Jamie.Pedersen@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Pedersen@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Eric Pettigrew | 360-786-7838 | [Eric.Pettigrew@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Eric.Pettigrew@leg.wa.gov) |
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| King | Representative Tan Senn | 360-786-7894 | [Tana.Senn@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Tana.Senn@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Larry Springer | 360-786-7822 | [Larry.Springer@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Larry.Springer@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Pat Sullivan | 360-786-7858 | [Pat.Sullivan@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Pat.Sullivan@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Representative Gael Tarleton | 360-786-7860 | [Gael.Tarleton@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Gael.Tarleton@leg.wa.gov) |
| King | Senator Mark Mullet | 360-786-7608 | [Mark.Mullet@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Mark.Mullet@leg.wa.gov) |
| King, Pierce | Representative Drew Stokesbary | 360-786-7846 | [Drew.Stokesbary@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Drew.Stokesbary@leg.wa.gov) |
| King, Snohomish | Senator Guy Palumbo | 360-786-7600 | [Guy.Palumbo@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Guy.Palumbo@leg.wa.gov) |
| King, Snohomish | Representative Cindy Ryu | 360-786-7880 | [Cindy.Ryu@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Cindy.Ryu@leg.wa.gov) |
| King, Snohomish | Representative Derek Stanford | 360-786-7928 | [Derek.Stanford@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Derek.Stanford@leg.wa.gov) |
| Kitsap | Representative Drew Hansen | 360-786-7842 | [Drew.Hansen@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Drew.Hansen@leg.wa.gov) |
| Kitsap | Senator Christine Rolfes (Chair) | 360-786-7644 | [Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Christine.Rolfes@leg.wa.gov) |
| Kittitas, Grant, Lincoln, Yakima | Senator Judy Warnick | 360-786-7624 | [Judy.Warnick@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Judy.Warnick@leg.wa.gov) |
| Mason, Thurston, Kitsap | Representative Drew C. MacEwen | 360-786-7902 | [Drew.MacEwen@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Drew.MacEwen@leg.wa.gov) |
| Pierce | Senator Steve Conway | 360-786-7656 | [steve.conway@leg.wa.gov](mailto:steve.conway@leg.wa.gov) |
| Pierce | Senator Jeannie Darnielle | 360-786-7652 | [Jeannie.Darnielle@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Jeannie.Darnielle@leg.wa.gov) |
| Pierce | Representative Laurie Jinkins | 360-786-7930 | [Laurie.Jinkins@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Laurie.Jinkins@leg.wa.gov) |
| Pierce, Kitsap | Representative Michelle Caldier | 360-786-7802 | [Michelle.Caldier@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Caldier@leg.wa.gov) |
| Pierce, Thurston | Senator Randi Becker | 360-786-7602 | [Randi.Becker@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Randi.Becker@leg.wa.gov) |
| Snohomish | Senator Marko Liias | 360-786-7640 | [Marko.Liias@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Marko.Liias@leg.wa.gov) |
| Snohomish | Representative June Robinson | 360-786-7864 | [June.Robinson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:June.Robinson@leg.wa.gov) |
| Snohomish | Representative Robert Sutherland | 360-786-7967 | [robert.sutherland@leg.wa.gov](mailto:robert.sutherland@leg.wa.gov) |
| Snohomish, Skagit, King | Senator Keith Wagoner | 360-786-7676 | [Keith.Wagoner@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Keith.Wagoner@leg.wa.gov) |
| Spokane | Senator Andy Billig | 360-786-7604 | [Andy.Billig@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Andy.Billig@leg.wa.gov) |
| Spokane | Representative Timm Ormbsy (Chair) | 360-786-7820 | [Timm.Ormsby@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Timm.Ormsby@leg.wa.gov) |
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| Spokane, Whitman, Adams, Franklin, Garfield, Asotin | Senator Mark Schoesler | 360-786-7620 | [Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov) |
| Thurston | Representative Laurie Dolan | 360-786-7940 | [Laurie.Dolan@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Laurie.Dolan@leg.wa.gov) |
| Thurston | Senator Sam Hunt | 360-786-7642 | [Sam.Hunt@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Hunt@leg.wa.gov) |
| Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark | Senator John Braun | 360-786-7638 | [John.Braun@leg.wa.gov](mailto:John.Braun@leg.wa.gov) |
| Yakima | Representative Bruce Chandler | 360-786-7960 | [Bruce.Chandler@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Bruce.Chandler@leg.wa.gov) |
| Yakima | Senator Jim Honeyford | 360-786-7684 | [Jim.Honeyford@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.Honeyford@leg.wa.gov) |
| Yakima, Klickitat, Skamania, Clark | Representative Gina Mosbrucker | 360-786-7856 | [Gina.Mossbrucker@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Gina.Mossbrucker@leg.wa.gov) |