

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Hi my name is Ny'Shia Dunn and i am a student at Next Step High School in Lewiston Maine. I'm writing to you today because in my civil disobedience class we are learning about the 6th amendment and unfair laws, as doing research i learned about our public defenders system. I believe the public's defenders system is unfair to those who are innocent until proven guilty, i hope we all can see the real issue and change the public's defenders system.

Maine should change their public defenders system because they have issues with not having enough lawyers to give to people that need them if they cant afford one, which is a risk to their 6th amendment right of the u.s constitution. First off we need a public defenders office, every state should have one it should be the minimum mandatory requirement. Most public defenders offices are underpaid, the pay for lawyers was \$80 an hour now it's pending \$150 a hour, do you really think that's enough? In some states in the public defender's office many lawyers are overworked due to overload of clients to defend which is impossible to do jobs well. This is truly unfair to people who still have their innocence until proven guilty, when defenders can't reach clients, clients sit in jail for months waiting for a trial and that can lead them to losing out on life, healthcare, family and jobs they might have, most serve prison time if it's poorly represented.

In conclusion departments need double the budget, more lawyers, and better pay for these defenders, this matter needs to be put to action ASAP, this a violation to the public's 6th amendment of the U.S constitution, please respect our wishes and rights, we are the citizens of this country, we the people.

Sincerely,

Ny'Shia Dunn