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**From:** Josh Griffin <[jgriffin@kcgov.us](mailto:jgriffin@kcgov.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 4, 2022 4:24 PM

**To:** Senator Todd Lakey <[TLakey@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:TLakey@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Doug Ricks <[dricks@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:dricks@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Patti Anne Lodge <[palodge@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:palodge@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Abby Lee <[ALee@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:ALee@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Kelly Anthon <[KAnthon@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:KAnthon@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Steven Thayn <[sthayn@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:sthayn@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Christy Zito <[CZito@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:CZito@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Grant Burgoyne <[gburgoyne@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:gburgoyne@senate.idaho.gov)>; Senator Melissa Wintrow <[mwintrow@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:mwintrow@senate.idaho.gov)>

**Subject:** Public Defense Commission Proposed Rules Objection

Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joshua Griffin and I am a public defender with Kootenai County. I am writing this to ask that you reject the proposed Public Defense Commission (PDC) rules. I am making this request both as an attorney and as an American citizen.

As proposed, the rules would give the PDC arbitrary powers with no limitations nor oversight. The rules would allow unelected, unknown PDC representatives the means to deprive public defenders of their employment, simply by removal from a list.

As an American citizen, I am bound by the laws of this land. As an attorney, I am subject to the discipline of the Idaho State Bar as well as the courts in which I appear. As an employee of the County, I am hired, supervised and terminated by the appointed Public Defender, who is selected by the Voice of the People - elected County Commissioners.

The ability of an outside organization to strip a professional of employment without due process is not only unconstitutional, it is, in theory, aligned with the inspiration of secret police, political commissars and star chambers, all of which are patently un-American. The possibility of an unelected *Commission*, subjecting public defenders to capricious discipline through the constant threat of unemployment, is simply wrong and will have an adverse effect on our justice system.

Respectfully,  
Josh Griffin

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