



Attachment J

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DEC 3 2001

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL BUREAU

THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER
THOMAS G. BECKER, STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Date: November 30, 2001

To: The Honorable Jeff Lamberti
The Honorable Tom Flynn
The Honorable David Millage
The Honorable Patrick Murphy
The Honorable Jeff Angelo
The Honorable Robert Dvorsky
The Honorable Lance Horbach
The Honorable Paul Bell

From: Thomas G. Becker, State Public Defender

Re: Notification of Change of Allocation for FY02

Please consider this as notification of a change in funding allocation of \$1,014,304 from the Indigent Defense Fund to the State Public Defender.

As a result of appropriated level of funding and the across-the-board reduction, without this change of allocation the State Public Defender would have to maintain current vacant positions and layoff additional attorneys for the remainder of the FY02 in order to limit spending to the current level. The cost of each case handled by a public defender [\$210] is considerably lower than the cost of each claim submitted by a private, court-appointed attorney [\$444]. The best business plan to achieve the overall targeted reduction is to maximize the number of cases handled by public defenders rather than private, court-appointed counsel. The change of allocation will allow the State Public Defender to become fully staffed and handle an increased number of cases.

This will result in short-term fiscal benefits to the General Fund in FY02 and additional long-term benefits to the General Fund in future fiscal years.

cc: Cynthia P. Eisenhauer, DOM
Dennis Hart, DOM
Dennis Prouty, LFB
Beth Lenstra, LFB
Kevin Techau, DIA
Heather Lindsay, DIA