



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Peter Browning, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District



MAILED
2-27-2023

February 27, 2023

Senator Patty Murray
2930 Wetmore Avenue, Ste. 9D
Everett, Washington 98201

RE: CDS Funding Request for Skagit County Community Courts

Dear Senator Murray,

We, as Skagit County's Board of County Commissioners, support the funding request of \$285,860 to provide funding for our Skagit County Community Court through Office of Senator Patty Murray – FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS).

In Skagit County we have managed to create five Community Courts, one in District Court and one in each neighboring jurisdiction, in Anacortes, the Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley. Therapeutic Community Courts were created here in Skagit County to help reduce the burden of taxpayers by reducing the number of individuals who are in jail for low level non-violent crimes of poverty and provide them with support by using Community resources.

With this funding Skagit County Community Court will continue to support many individuals in our community that have unmet needs that contribute to their court involvement. We strongly believe that these needs are best met in the Therapeutic Community Court rather than jail where services are limited. We believe that everyone in Skagit County should have the opportunity to be safe, healthy, and successful and programs such as Therapeutic Community Courts gives us one more tool to support individuals in our community.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Commissioner