



STATE COURT ADMINISTRATION

Iowa Judicial Branch Building

1111 East Court Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50319

TODD NUCCIO
State Court Administrator

May 1, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

Please be advised that the Iowa House of Representatives has passed the FY 19 budget bill for the judicial branch. The Iowa Senate will now take up the bill, but no changes are anticipated as we are told that Senate leadership is in agreement with the House version. The funding level allocated within the House bill is \$177.5 million; which is \$3.4 million more than our current FY 18 appropriation (after the de-appropriation). At this amount, we will be able to maintain current service levels in all 99 counties. Final decisions regarding the specific allocation of these funds will now be determined by the supreme court. On a less positive note, judicial officers are not eligible for any pay increase under the terms of the legislation. Also, it is likely that a considerable number of positions will remain vacant throughout all of FY 19 in order to stay within budget. I am very aware of the difficulty these vacancies cause in providing timely services to the public and the extra workload it places on each of you. I promise to do my absolute best in keeping this number to a minimum.

I'm also pleased to report that we received full-funding of our juror and witness fund at \$3.1 million. We are hopeful that another bill working its way through the process may also bring a one-time allocation of \$3 million for overall technology infrastructure and \$1.4 million needed to cover technology infrastructure, equipment and furniture for the last phase of renovations to the Polk County Courthouse complex. Stay tuned. Finally, language was inserted into the justice system's bill that eliminates the use of the Public Safety Assessment instrument currently being piloted in three counties. For those who may be unfamiliar with the instrument, it moves the setting of bond from a financially-based system to a risk-based system that includes increased supervision for defendants who are released.

There have been many ups and downs throughout the course of this legislative session. It seems we have settled somewhere in the middle. Thank you for all of your hard work and the professionalism you display every day. The positive relationships you build daily with the public generate the political capital for us to represent your interests with ease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Nuccio", written in a cursive style.

Todd Nuccio