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www.innovation4justice.org

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Dear Members of the North Carolina General Assembly:

Innovation for Justice supports the North Carolina Justice for All Project's efforts to advance regulatory reform of the legal profession in North Carolina.

Innovation for Justice (i4J), housed at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law and the University of Utah David Eccles School of Business, is a social-justice-focused legal innovation lab that designs, builds, and tests disruptive solutions to the justice gap. As the first and only cross-discipline, cross-institution, cross-jurisdiction legal innovation lab in the nation, i4J is intentionally and uniquely positioned to lead the identification, design, and launch of disruptive legal innovation across three impact areas: service, system and structure. i4J's action-driven research in its service impact area leverages regulatory reform of the legal profession to equip non-lawyer community advocates in the nonprofit sector to provide limited scope legal advice to low-income community members.

Since 2019, i4J has been leveraging the regulatory reform opportunities in Arizona and Utah to design and implement new legal service models grounded in community-based advocacy and partnership with community-based organizations. i4J has designed three pilot programs to implement these new legal service models: the Licensed Legal Advocate Pilot (LLA), the Medical Debt Legal Advocate Pilot (MDLA), and Housing Stability Legal Advocate Pilot (HSLA). These pilots are in various stages of implementation and evaluation.

Arizona's Access to Justice Commission's 2020 annual report states that "for every 3 people in Arizona who realize they have a legal problem and contact legal aid, 2 must be turned away because of a lack of resources." Utah Bar Foundation's 2020 Justice Gap Report found that only 10% of Utahns experiencing any kind of legal problem received help from legal aid. Pro bono services cannot meet the need either. Nationally, only 20% of attorneys are providing at least 50 pro bono hours per year, as ABA Model Rule 6.1 recommends, and 20% of attorneys had never undertaken any pro bono service. Regulatory reform strategies which allow



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non-lawyer ownership and unauthorized practice of law will purportedly invite investment in new forms of legal services, drive innovation, and create legal service models that leverage economies of scale to meet basic legal needs through technology and non-lawyers triaging legal needs and providing legal advice. Regulatory reform is a critical step in increasing access to justice.

Sincerely,

Stacy Butler, Director