



Washington State Senate

March 10, 2014

David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

The Washington State Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) was created to advise the governor and the legislature as necessary on issues relating to sex offender management. RCW 9.94A.8673 authorizes the governor or a legislative committee to request the SOPB be convened to "undertake projects to assist policymakers in making informed judgments about issues relating to sex offender policy."

We are requesting the SOPB be convened to review policies relating to the release and housing of sex offenders in the community, including, but not limited to:

- (a) The process of identifying and approving housing providers for participation in the housing voucher program with the Department of Corrections;
- (b) Guidelines and restrictions on the placement or residence of sex offenders depending on the offender's crime of conviction or risk level; and
- (c) The impact of city and county ordinances on sex offender housing.

In conducting its review, the board should make recommendations that balance the need to find housing for offenders, the need to maintain public safety, and the general public's need to feel safe in their communities. It is also recommended that the board invite representatives from the Washington State Association of Counties and the Association of Washington Cities to participate.

Please submit a report and recommendations to the governor and the relevant committees of the legislature no later than December 1, 2014.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Senator Jim Hargrove


Senator Jeannie Darneille