ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS BY JUVENILES
PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE REFORM

CURRENT LAW:

- Under current law a juvenile must be convicted of five felonies before a conviction for "Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the Second Degree" (UPFA 2) results in a sentence at the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) of 15 to 36 weeks. (RCW 13.40.0357).

- Current law calls for a mandatory 10 day sentence (RCW 13.40.193) for the first four convictions for UPFA 2nd Degree. Numerous sentencing alternatives exist however, that can make the mandatory 10 day sentence meaningless. Current Washington state law sends a strong message to juveniles that carrying a gun is no big deal.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

- Juveniles convicted of illegal gun possession will have to serve a mandatory 10 day sentence on their first conviction. Juveniles who have already been convicted of a felony or who are convicted a second time of illegal gun possession will be sent to JRA to serve a sentence of 15 to 36 weeks.

- Eliminate sentencing alternatives that permit juveniles to escape serving the mandatory 10 day sentence called for under current law on their first illegal gun possession conviction.

- Develop a gun violence education curriculum for juvenile offenders serving sentences for illegal gun possession that offers a realistic lesson on the medical and legal consequences of carrying and using firearms.