



May 1, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Brown,

As part of its continuing commitment to improving public safety, the Washington State Senate hereby requests that the Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) be convened under the provisions of ESSB 5891 (2011), to "conduct case reviews of sex offense incidents to understand performance of Washington's sex offender prevention and response systems."

Specifically, the SOPB is asked to:

1. Review the case of Jeremiah Thompson, registered sex offender in Clark County;
2. Consider the effectiveness of Washington's policies related to juvenile sex offenders and school notification; and
3. Make recommendations for consideration during the 2013 legislative session.

In keeping with the statutory mission of the Sex Offender Policy Board, the requested review and recommendations should reflect current research, best practices, and trends in other jurisdictions that may be applicable to Washington State. The Board should confer with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction with respect to educational matters, and in addition, the Board should review the current status of federal privacy provisions and ensure that its recommendations comply.

This review is part of Washington State's ongoing commitment to comprehensive policy on sex offender prevention and response system.

- **Community Protection.**

Beginning with the **Community Protection Act of 1990**, Washington has required sex offenders to register with police. The state has built a state-of-the-art information sharing system.

Washington was **first in the nation to require community notification**. Through experience we have learned a great deal about how to protect public safety, updating many practices with SSB 6414 in 2010.

- **Sex Offender Management.**

Washington uses research-based tools to assess all offenders upon release, and in addition, **utilizes specialized risk assessment tools to rank sex offenders** at Levels I, II and III, based on the risk they pose to the community.

Washington led the way in **mandating civil commitment for violent sex predators** to keep

dangerous sex offenders off the street after serving their prison sentences.

- **Treatment and Prevention.**

Since the passage of the **Youth Violence Reduction Act of 1994**, Washington State has invested in research-proven strategies to treat youth offenders and prevent recidivism.

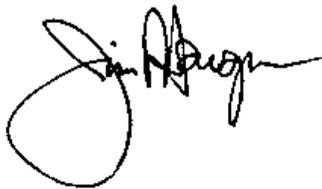
- **Commitment to Proven Practices.**

Three years ago, **Washington established the Sex Offender Policy Board**, a subdivision of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, to review the state's policies and make recommendations that reflect research, trends, changes in standards established by the courts, new technologies, and other factors that will allow us to best secure the public safety. The board is also tasked to review cases to assess the function of the state's sex offender prevention and response system. SSB 6414, incorporating the SOPB's first recommended policy changes, was signed into law in 2010.

Currently, all juvenile sex offenders are, like adult sex offenders, required to register with local law enforcement. The law enforcement agency informs the principal of the school the juvenile will attend and in addition, notifies the community at large. As specified by law, the principal shares information with school personnel only, based on the offender's designated level. The Washington State School Directors' Association has developed a model policy for Washington's schools to follow with respect to notification of and attendance by juvenile sex offenders.

We look forward to the Board's recommendations as we work to further public safety and provide for the education of all of children and youth.

Sincerely,



James Hargrove, Chair
Senate Human Services & Corrections



Val Stevens, Ranking Member
Senate Human Services & Corrections