



Washington State Senate

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OFM DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

October 16, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Marshburn:

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."

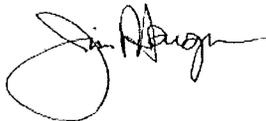
We are requesting the SOPB be convened to review processes in the state for imposing a Special Sex Offender Sentencing Alternative (SSOSA). Specifically, we would like the SOPB to review the following:

- 1) RCW 9.94A.670 requires the court to give great weight to the victim's opinion and must enter written findings for its reasons for imposing the treatment disposition if the sentence is contrary to the victim's opinion. How often is a SSOSA imposed over the victim's objections and what are the reasons noted by the court in doing so?
- 2) Explore consistencies or inconsistencies between jurisdictions in determining that an offender is amenable to treatment and how this finding contributes to the decision to order a SSOSA. What happens if the Department of Corrections does not believe treatment can be successful? Should there be more consistent standards for determining when an offender is amenable to treatment and is therefore eligible for a SSOSA?
- 3) What are the results after a SSOSA has been imposed? How often does the offender successfully complete treatment? When the offender does not comply with the requirements of sentence, are consequences swift and certain and appropriate to the violation or noncompliance?

The SOPB should make any recommendations for improvements to the SSOSA process as identified in its review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Hargrove, Chair
Senate Human Services & Corrections



Debbie Regala, Vice-Chair
Senate Human Services & Corrections



Val Stevens, Ranking Member
Senate Human Services & Corrections