



Washington State Senate

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

Dear Mr. Schumacher,

As Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I request that the Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) convene pursuant to RCW 9.94A.8673 to undertake projects related to research and recommendations for improving systems for sexually violent predators (SVPs) and their re-entry into the community.

Over the past several years, these issues have been prolific in terms of constituent outreach and correspondence. Many of my constituents in the city of Poulsbo have contacted my office to express concerns regarding SVP placement in residential neighborhoods near schools and on school bus routes. My constituents were concerned that they received inadequate advance notice. In response to this event, they organized a group to help facilitate a community conversation to address the issue. It's also been made clear to me from speaking with other legislators that this issue is not unique to my district and needs to be addressed on a statewide basis.

Over the past several sessions, numerous bills have been introduced regarding these topics. I myself have introduced [SB 6436](#) in 2020 and [SB 5941](#) in 2019. Despite these and other overlapping efforts, the Legislature failed to find consensus and the concerns raised by my constituents remain unaddressed.

The Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) serves to advise the governor and the Legislature on issues relating to sex offender management as necessary. The Legislature may request that the SOPB convene to undertake projects to assist policymakers in addressing issues relating to sex offender policy. Safe and successful re-entry to the community remains a critically important issue to not just my district, but the entire state. Furthermore, this issue has a direct bearing on future budget development. To that end, the Senate Ways and Means Committee formally requests that the SOPB undertake the following projects:

1. Conduct a review of current SVP re-entry and least restrictive alternative (LRA) policies and practices in Washington including:

- a. The process for development of treatment plans and individualized discharge plans;
 - b. Provisions for determining conditions of release for those released to an LRA;
 - c. Factors regarding siting of secure community transition facilities;
 - d. Availability of adequate LRA placement sites and treatment providers by county;
 - e. The process by which community notification is completed within the community of the release; and
 - f. The process for considering an LRA placement's proximity to public services, including but not limited to schools and childcare facilities.
2. Review research regarding best practices for placement of SVPs in the community with a focus on enhancing public safety, including policies from other states; and
 3. Make recommendations regarding placement of SVPs in community-based settings including placement in adult family homes or group homes, any restrictions on placements that may be made in the interest of public safety, public disclosure requirements that may be relevant to SVPs and LRAs, discharge planning, and any other related topics.

I would like to invite you and representatives of the board to present and report on these projects to the Senate Ways and Means Committee during Assembly Days and request that a final work product be transmitted by December 1, 2020. My constituents and I appreciate the efforts of the board members to accomplish this task. We hope that the information and recommendations can help inform the Legislature in advance of the 2021 legislative session.

Sincerely,



Senator Christine Rolfes
23rd Legislative District

Cc: Leah Landon, Amber Leaders