

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
45th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
ROGER GOODMAN

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



COMMUNITY SAFETY,
JUSTICE, & REENTRY
CHAIR
STATUTE LAW COMMITTEE
CHAIR
CIVIL RIGHTS & JUDICIARY
HUMAN SERVICES, YOUTH,
& EARLY LEARNING

April 25, 2023

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair
Chair, Sentencing Guidelines Commission
P.O. Box 43124
Olympia, WA 98504-3124

Re: Ranking Felony Offenses on Proposed New Sentencing Grid

Dear Mr. Chair:

I hereby request that the Sentencing Guidelines Commission (“SGC”) undertake a review of felony offenses included within each seriousness level of the adult felony sentencing grid, as provided in RCW 9.94A.515, and make recommendations for re-ranking those offenses on a modified form of the proposed sentencing grid that was considered by the Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force. I am hoping that the SGC can submit those recommendations to the House Community Safety, Justice and Reentry Committee by December 1, 2023, in preparation for legislative action in the 2024 legislative session.

As part of this project, the SGC must consult with the Sex Offender Policy Board (“SOPB”) when considering the ranking of sex offenses. In addition, this review should include recommendations to rank currently unranked offenses that are included in the SGC’s *Criminal Code Review: Unranked Offenses and Drug Sentences* report (forthcoming).

I understand that a new research staff member will join the SGC/SOPB as of July 1, 2023, to provide additional capacity to engage in this project and to assist the SGC in making recommendations to the Legislature. In addition, where the Ruckelshaus Center is funded through June 30, 2023, to facilitate the work of the Criminal Sentencing Task Force, the Ruckelshaus facilitation team should also be available to assist the SGC as it undertakes this project.

In the course of reviewing and re-ranking crimes, SGC considerations should include, but not be limited to, historical sentence length patterns, racial disparities in sentencing outcomes, and arranging felony offenses on seriousness levels that reflect similar conduct that causes similar degrees of harm. The SGC may also recommend minor modifications to the sentencing grid that would complement the re-ranking of crimes.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you and the members of the Commission on this important project.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger E. Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "E".

Representative Roger Goodman
Chair, House Community Safety, Justice, and Reentry Committee

Cc: Keri-Anne Jetzer
Jon Tunheim
Waldo Waldron Ramsey
Amanda Murphy
Chris Page
Brad Merryhew