

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
45th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
ROGER GOODMAN

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



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

May 9, 2024

Brad A. Meryhew, Chair
Washington Sex Offender Policy Board
P.O. Box 43124
Olympia, WA 98504-3124

Re: Review/Comments on Lifetime Supervision/House Bill 2178

Dear Mr. Chair:

In 2022, the Legislature directed the Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) to review research and make recommendations regarding best practices and procedures related to lifetime supervision of adults convicted of sex offenses, including: the monetary and collateral costs of lifetime supervision, the impact on community safety of lifetime supervision; and any recommendations regarding procedures to end lifetime supervision in individual cases or in its entirety. The SOPB submitted its report to the Legislature in December 2022 and presented its recommendations to the House Public Safety Committee in January 2023.

In my capacity as Chair of the House Community Safety, Justice and Reentry Committee, and in response to the SOPB's recommendations, I introduced House Bill 2178 during the 2024 legislative session, which set forth a path for individuals convicted of sex offenses to seek relief from lifetime supervision. Several productive stakeholder discussions helped to guide refinements to the measure, but the bill did not advance further than the policy committee, so the proposal is still a "work in progress."

I deeply appreciate and highly value the well-informed advice from the SOPB to the Governor and the Legislature on issues relating to sex offender policy and management. To that end, I hereby request that the SOPB convene its membership, pursuant to RCW 9.94A.8673, to review the substantive provisions of House Bill 2178 (2024), to identify key points of contention among SOPB members, and to attempt to build consensus on an amended version of the bill.

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I further request that the SOPB submit its comments related to House Bill 2178 to the House Community Safety, Justice and Reentry Committee by December 1, 2024, in preparation for anticipated legislative action in the 2025 legislative session.

Thank you in advance for the efforts of the SOPB members and staff to accomplish this important work. I hope and believe that the information and recommendations you provide will significantly assist the ongoing work of the Legislature.

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".

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

Cc: Whitney L. Hunt
Keri-Anne Jetzer