

SB 588 – Traffic in Contraband in a Correctional Facility  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
February 21, 2008

Chairman Vratil and members of the Committee, I am Don Jordan, Secretary of SRS. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss SB 588.

SRS supports the intent of this bill to enhance and support patient and staff safety and security but has some concerns with the current format of the bill.

Section 1 paragraph (b) would define the Sexual Predator Treatment Program (SPTP) and the State Security Hospital as a “correctional institution”. Defining the SPTP in this manner could put the constitutionality of this program in jeopardy as the program must be for the care and treatment of the people committed to the program.

Section 1 paragraph (c) (2) would hold the SPTP and State Security Hospital to the definition of contraband as established by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of Corrections. The nature of medical treatment facilities is much different than in correctional institutions. Hospitals are a therapeutic/treatment environment and some items that might be considered contraband in the Department of Corrections environment would not be considered contraband in hospitals, and vice-versa. For example, as residents move along the treatment continuum they prepare meals for themselves and are allowed to have knives for cooking. Conversely, movies that might be appropriate to show to a general population of inmates might not be appropriate for viewing by pedophiles.

SRS proposes a balloon amendment, as attached, which addresses these issues and provides for the Secretary of SRS to define contraband through rules and regulations.

I would be glad to stand for any questions from the Committee.