



DAVID J. THOMAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

Media Advisory – March 4, 2004

Contact: Pam Russell
Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: News Conference on Proposed Slashing of Funds for SB91-94
High-Risk Juvenile Offenders Release to Communities?

First Judicial District Attorney Dave Thomas is hosting a joint news conference on Friday, March 5, at 2:00 p.m. at the District Attorney's Office, 500 Jefferson County Parkway, in Golden. Jefferson County officials including Sheriff Ted Mink, R1 Schools Superintendent Cindy Stevenson, District Judge James Zimmerman, Jefferson County Commissioners Rick Sheehan, Patricia Holloway and Michelle Lawrence, and others will address the proposed slashing of SB91-94 funds.

SB91-94 began as a pilot program in Jeffco, as a community-based alternative to juvenile detention facilities for delinquent youth. In 1993, the program was implemented statewide.

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed cutting by 66% those funds provided by SB91-94 that allows us to assess high-risk juveniles, and appropriately supervise them, from the time they enter the criminal justice system. The loss of the programs could leave thousands of high-risk juveniles in the community unsupervised.

Thorough early assessment allowed the Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center to identify and disrupt 20 credible threats by high-risk juvenile offenders in 2003 alone.

Statewide, the estimated savings of SB94 is estimated to have been \$30M over the last five years. Those costs are associated with building juvenile detention facilities.

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