

Members of the Okanogan Kiwanis Club  
Dolores Edelman, Club President  
P O Box 246  
Malott WA 98829

April 15, 2016

Okanogan County Board of Commissioners  
Chair Jim DeTro, District 3 ✓  
Sheilah Kennedy, District #1  
Ray Campbell, District #2  
123 Fifth Avenue North, Room 150  
Okanogan WA 98840

RE: Okanogan County Juvenile Detention Center

The Okanogan Kiwanis Club recently celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A historian of the Club noted their first project was building a cabin for youth groups such as the Boy and Girl scouts. Since that time, the Okanogan Kiwanis Club has sponsored a great many projects that benefited our community and, most importantly, actively supported our youth. Because of the Okanogan Kiwanis Club's focus and commitment to our youth and community, we have become extremely concerned about recent discussions in sending our own youth to an out-of-town location. It is difficult to understand why someone would think it is a good idea to pay someone to take our very own children from our very own community and force them to live someplace else. Martin Hall is not in our community. Employees of Martin Hall are not our neighbors. Sending local tax dollars away to another community so we will not have to be responsible for our children's welfare, is not good practice nor good business.

If we want our children to grow up being responsible, then we as adults must set the bar. We cannot call ourselves responsible adults if we make a decision to ignore the facts in order to do the wrong thing. The Okanogan Kiwanis Club takes pride in making decisions that help children to grow into responsible adults. Please, help us keep this tradition alive and well in Okanogan County by keeping children close to their parents and close to the services that will help them become productive members of our community.

Sincerely,



Dolores Edelman  
2015-2016 President Okanogan Kiwanis Club