

DRAFT – Letter of Support for the Division of Juvenile Justice Services

President Taggart,

We are writing you to voice support for continuing the relationship the Ogden-Weber Technical College (OWTC) has with the Division of Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) at the Mill Creek Youth Center.

It is our understanding that OWTC provides vocational training and certification in construction, electrical, plumbing and HVAC to the youth being served at Mill Creek Youth Center. This partnership matters. Youth not only are learning valuable marketable trade skills, but the relationships they are building with the instructors and classmates have been key to their overall success. With a certificate from OWTC, youth in JJS custody are more likely to succeed when they return to the community with a profitable job and skills they will use for life. It's important to note that youth have also used these skills to build playhouses that are donated to the Festival of Trees which benefits the children at Primary Children's Hospital.

This program is the flagship vocational training program for JJS and has been shown as a model for other states that come to observe their system.

Furthermore, this program is being paid for by the Ogden School District and the Utah State Board of Education and has no financial liability to Ogden-Weber Technical College. When youth in JJS custody succeed, our community succeeds.

Again, we encourage you to keep providing vocational programs to the Division of Juvenile Justice Services and the Ogden School District at Mill Creek Youth Center.

Sincerely,

Chairs of the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee.

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Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg, Co-Chair

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Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair