



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

September 30, 2025

The Honorable David W. Marsden
P.O. Box 10889
Burke, VA 22009

Senator Marsden:

I am writing in response to your request for Fairfax County to convene regional partners to consider closing juvenile detention centers in Prince William and Loudoun Counties, as well as the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Home, and consolidating them into Fairfax County's Juvenile Detention Center.

This proposal is not workable. No jurisdiction has expressed interest in closing its facility. The plan may reduce state expenditures on juvenile detention, but it does so by shifting significant costs—staffing, transportation, infrastructure, and daily operations—onto Northern Virginia localities. Preliminary estimates show that while the Commonwealth would save millions in avoided operating costs, those same costs would be absorbed by Fairfax and our regional neighbors, in order to expand capacity, reopen closed units, and fund additional sheriff and transportation services. In short, the State saves money by passing the bill to local governments.

When this same idea was advanced last year through SB 1432, it was unanimously opposed by every affected jurisdiction, including Fairfax. The reasons remain unchanged: massive infrastructure and staffing costs, disruption of services to youth and families, and serious transportation and security challenges. Local Sheriff's Offices, including Fairfax's, have been clear that they cannot absorb the added burden.

Fairfax County will not reopen closed units, expand capacity, or jeopardize the safety and success of our programs to solve a state budget problem. Our priority is rehabilitation, family engagement, and community safety—not filling beds to capacity.

To be clear: Fairfax County categorically opposes consolidation of regional detention services into our facility.

Sincerely,


Bryan J. Hill
County Executive