



KOOTENAI COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LESLIE DUNCAN

After receiving many emails and phone calls from the citizens of Kootenai County, I feel it necessary to make a statement.

As an elected official, I am a servant of the public, for the public's best interest, promoting and protecting individual rights. While the Coronavirus has caused many health care challenges in the United States and the world, that is not the case here in Kootenai County.

While many may argue the shutdown is for the health and safety of the public, more argue that the loss of jobs, increase in crime (specifically drug use and domestic violence), and irreparable damage to our economy will cause more loss of life than the Coronavirus. Only time will tell, however, researching death statistics across our nation absolutely indicate COVID-19 will cause significantly fewer deaths than the flu, car accidents, suicide, and abortion. It is widely known that many COVID-19 deaths have been overstated across the world. I am not here to argue statistics, projections, or fear tactics.

What I will argue is **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**:

From the beginning of the declared pandemic, I have advocated for the vulnerable population to take measures to protect themselves including staying home, and for those who have any symptoms of the virus to quarantine at home. Nowhere have I seen the social or economic benefit of healthy people staying home. If you have concerns about contracting the virus, or your family contracting the virus, please take necessary measures to protect yourselves. Don't for a minute believe that you have the right to tell your neighbor how they need to protect their family. That is an individual personal responsibility each of us is guaranteed through the US and Idaho Constitutions.

I respectfully disagree with the Governor that Kootenai County and Panhandle Health District should remain under the Stay at Home Order. We have serious crimes being committed in Kootenai County that require many resources. The Stay at Home Order should not be allowed to cause an extra strain on our overburdened criminal justice system.

Those of you who know me know I will not legislate out of fear. Kootenai County is full of independent, strong citizens who practice personal responsibility, take care of themselves and their families. Judge not, lest you be judged.