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AUG 19 2021

DEREK S. KALISH
RICHLAND COUNTY CLERK

TONY KURTZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 50th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

August 17, 2021

Attn: Richland County Board Members
Richland County Courthouse
181 West Seminary Street
Richland Center, WI 53581

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my full support for Bethlehem Lutheran's Academy for Life-Long Learning (ALL) Center's grant application. Approval of this application would allow for the repurposing and renovation of a building to open up a 50-child pre-school and childcare facility, along with a robust senior care program.

Our children and our seniors are two age groups that have been greatly affected and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Richland County, along with many other areas of Wisconsin, has been deemed a "childcare desert" meaning there are more than three times as many children under age five as there are spaces in childcare centers. Our area is in desperate need for more childcare facilities and Bethlehem Lutheran's Academy for Life-Long Learning (ALL) Center would be filling the gap that our community is experiencing. Additionally, over one third of Richland County's population is made up of individuals age 55 and older. Rural communities, like Richland County, face especially large challenges when it comes to serving this demographic and require adequate funding and resources. I strongly believe that this new facility will help provide additional and necessary support to the age groups that have been most drastically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, I am confident any dollars allocated to Bethlehem Lutheran's Academy for Life-Long Learning (ALL) Center will be well-managed and that the organization will benefit greatly from its implementation. I request full support and full funding for this project. Please contact me with any questions or additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Kurtz", is written over a horizontal line.

Tony Kurtz
State Representative
50th Assembly District