

LUTHERAN HIGH

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Lutheran High School
5200 S. 6th St. Frontage Road E.
Springfield, IL 62703

April 28, 2023

Subject: Funding For New Building Development

Dear LuHi Family,

Over the recent days, you may have seen some correspondence regarding the solicitation of certain state or federal funds that may be appropriated for use by Lutheran High School. Given our significant need for property and a new building, the Board of Directors believes it to be prudent to investigate any and all avenues that may enable us to reach our goals.

Rest assured, the Board of Directors is playing an active role in investigating all possible sources of income, ensuring that our core values and beliefs will not be compromised should we elect to receive potentially allocated state or federal funds. First and foremost, we remain dedicated to providing excellent education in a Christ centered environment.

In order to enhance our chances of receiving some available funding, it is important we make our plight known to those individuals that can impact such a decision. As an interested constituent, the Board of Directors is asking you to personally reach out and express your concerns to respective elected officials. Attached to this memo you will find both a list of key decision makers as well as a letter template you can use to craft correspondence to these individuals. In addition, for those of you with students attending the school, we would ask you to sit down with them and have them craft a letter as well. The more voices heard, the better off our chance of participating in some of this funding.

As appropriations are currently in process, time is of the essence to get these letters out as soon as possible. As part of our LuHi family, we certainly pray you will help us get the word out as we work together to restore Lutheran High School and expand His kingdom here in our community.

Thanks again for your help and blessings on your day!

In His Service,

The Lutheran High School Board of Directors

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105

KEY DECISION MAKERS::

Honorable Senator Doris Turner
Stratton Office Bldg. Section F Room B
Springfield, IL 62706
tbond@senatedem.ilga.gov

Honorable Representative Mike Coffey
E-1 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
coffey@ilhousegop.org

Honorable Rep. Jehan Gordon Booth
632 Capitol Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
tbristow@hds.ilga.gov

Honorable Senator Elgie Sims
218 Capitol Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
cstecz@senatedem.ilga.gov

Honorable Senate President Don Harmon
309 G Capitol Bldg.
Springfield IL 62706
kgalloway@senatedem.ilga.gov

Hon. Senate Republican Leader John Curran
108 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
mfrank@sgop.ilga.gov (MaryLou Frank sent her kids to Trinity)

Honorable Speaker Emanuel Welch
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com

Hon. House Republican Leader Tony McCombie
316 Capitol Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
mccombie@ilhousegop.org

LETTER TEMPLATE:

[Please do not copy and paste this letter. It will be far more effective if each letter is personalized. Thank you!]

To Legislative Leaders, Appropriation Leaders and staff:

Last summer Springfield's Lutheran High School experienced serious mine subsidence. It was just entering the 5th year of their newest addition to the school of 150 students. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources assessed the damage at 90% affected and condemned the entire building.

While we scrambled to find a new location to open last fall, the Church of the Nazarene offered their facilities for up to three years. Students moved into the small classrooms designed for Sunday School. It is working for now, but is definitely not a long-term solution.

Meanwhile, the remaining \$3 million owed for the LuHi Washington Street school addition must still be repaid. While we had insurance that would have covered the loan, the State law caps insurance recovery for mine subsidence at \$750,000. IDNR will demolish the school this summer. We need the state's help to build a new school and pay off the loan.

In February, 2022, the Biden Administration allocated \$75,763,000.00 to Illinois to "catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned mine lands as part of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law". We respectfully request that part of this money be used to help Lutheran High School purchase land and build a new school (or any other funds that you deem available). This will not only provide construction jobs to spur the economy, but will keep up to 150 students from entering the public school system with a significant added cost to the state.

Finally, you should know that our school has run a summer camp for kids since 1986. We have served approximately 10,000 kids from Springfield and the surrounding communities of all races and denominations. We continue to educate future leaders and responsible citizens, but we are in a time of crisis and need your help.

We are asking for \$20 million in the Fy'24 state budget to move forward. To come this far only to see our dream collapse right in front of our eyes is heartbreaking. Please feel free to reach out to ask any questions you may have. We look forward to working with you. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,