



## COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA

### Office of the Commissioners

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Dante Santoni Jr., Commissioner

Lynne A. Burns, Executive Assistant

  
Dear Representative Maloney,

I'm reaching out today to ask for your support in securing much-needed financial assistance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a vital regional project: the proposed jointly operated Youth Detention Center in Berks County.

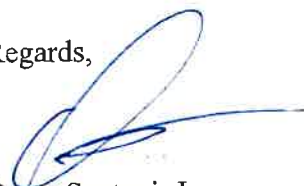
Attached is a letter to be sent from the Berks County Legislative Delegation to Governor Shapiro. We are asking you to sign on to this letter in support of critical funding for this multi-county initiative.

Like many counties across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Berks County has been struggling for years with a severe shortage of space at youth detention centers. The situation has left the county scrambling, sometimes even resorting to having young offenders spend weekends inside youth probation offices and in emergency rooms. This has led to the Berks County Commissioners issuing an Emergency Declaration early last year to expedite the restoration of the detention center that was last used in 2012.

Since then, Dauphin and Lehigh Counties have joined Berks in this effort, and earlier this spring, all three counties presented their case before state lawmakers and staff. Now, we urgently need your backing to move this project forward and address the serious shortfall in youth detention resources across the region.

Thank you for considering this important request.

Regards,



Dante Santoni, Jr.  
Berks County Commissioner