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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4605

August 12, 2022

Michael Smith
P.O. Box 1390
Bedford, VA 24523

Dear Michael,

It was a pleasure to visit with you earlier this year and hear more about the Covered Chaplaincy program, and how it is working in Bedford County.

In today's challenging times, law enforcement and first responders have been at the forefront of the needs in our communities. Too often we take for granted that these men and women run towards danger without thinking about what they do when they need help. In some fortunate communities, they can call on a chaplain to face the struggles, pains, and stress of their calling.

That is why I was encouraged to learn that Bedford is blessed to have a chaplain program to help our first responder community. The Covered Chaplaincy organization is providing vital resources for counseling and support to law enforcement officers and their families, and acts as a bridge to support healthy relationships between the departments and the greater Bedford community. I also appreciated your desire to see the Covered Chaplaincy connected in a more meaningful way with churches and other local organizations, so you all can work together to care for our hard working first responders.

I am proud to offer my support to this organization and the important role you play in Bedford County. Please do not hesitate to contact my office moving forward if we can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Member of Congress