



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Subject: Support for SB1013 Liberty House

I am writing in support of SB1013 which provides important bridge funding for Liberty House's expansion project to bring services to rural North Marion County, helping children who have experienced abuse, neglect, trauma, and grief.

The proposal (\$5 million or \$2.5 million annually) is **one-time funding** to Liberty House which will:

- Stabilize funding and support their team of specially-trained pediatric medical providers who help children who have experienced abuse.
- Support the ramp-up of their Woodburn Clinic which opened in 2024 (at the request of Woodburn) to serve the rural communities of North Marion County.

This is one-time bridge funding to reach the children of Marion County – many of whom live in rural, underserved areas. These children can't get to the Main Clinic in Salem so Liberty House is taking their services to them, eliminating a barrier for low-income families to access essential services.

The specially trained professionals at Liberty House provide compassionate, child-focused care, helping the child work through the trauma of abuse. Over the course of the past 25 years, Liberty House has helped over 15,000 children.

Liberty House is the Children's Advocacy Center for Marion and Polk Counties. It serves approximately 1,000 children (Newborn to age 18) annually who have been referred to Liberty House for concerns of abuse, neglect, grief, trauma, and trafficking and is accredited through the National Children's Alliance.

I urge you to support these important services for the children in our state.

Sincerely,

Representative Ed Diehl
House District 17