



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 11, 2025

RE: Support for SB 1013

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

Liberty House is a vital child advocacy center that provides comprehensive, coordinated, and essential services to children who have experienced abuse, trauma, neglect, or mistreatment. Through its trauma-informed approach, Liberty House ensures that children receive accurate diagnoses in an environment designed to minimize retraumatization, all while attending fewer appointments. The center's unique model of care allows children to recount their traumatic experiences once, greatly reducing the emotional burden associated with repeated retellings. Liberty House's program is accredited by the National Children's Alliance, a testament to its commitment to excellence in child advocacy.

In a remarkable effort to extend its services to underserved communities, Liberty House has recently opened a second location in Woodburn to serve low-income children in North Marion County. Many families in this region face significant barriers to transportation, making it difficult to access the Salem location. To address this, Liberty House has developed an innovative approach by sending a team of medical experts directly to children's homes, ensuring that services reach the areas of greatest need.

Each year, over a thousand children seek care at Liberty House for issues related to abuse, neglect, grief, and trauma. However, the current funding model for child advocacy centers like Liberty House remains insufficient. Government grants and insurance coverage only account for two-thirds of the center's operating expenses, leaving the organization to rely on private donations for the remaining third.

As a state, it is our collective responsibility to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, particularly our children. Senate Bill 1013 provides a critical opportunity to fulfill this responsibility by allocating \$5 million to Liberty House, ensuring expanded access to vital care for children in Marion County.

This one-time funding will stabilize Liberty House's budget, allowing the center to retain its team of specialized pediatric doctors who are trained in trauma-informed care. It will also strengthen the progress made in the Woodburn Clinic, ensuring that these essential services remain available to the children who need them most.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass Senate Bill 1013. By doing so, we can ensure that low-income children have the opportunity to access the comprehensive, compassionate care they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin L. Mannix". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'L'.

Kevin L. Mannix
State Representative
House District 21, Keizer and North Salem