

Submitter: Senator Kim Thatcher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1013

Testifying in favor of SB 1013 for the following:

SB 1013 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.

The funding system for CACs.

The current funding for Oregon's CACs is fragile and inadequate:

Government grants and insurance billing comprise around 67% of Liberty House revenue.

Around a third of Liberty House's budget (33%) must come from private donors.

This is a fragile system for providing vitally important services to children who have experienced abuse.

Why is SB 1013 needed.

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.

Maintains the investment this community has made over the last 25 years to help children and families during a time that no child or family should have to experience.

This critical expansion funding supports the ramp-up phase of the recently opened clinic in Woodburn, serving the rural communities of North Marion County.

The specially trained professionals at Liberty House provide compassionate, child-focused care, helping the child work through the trauma of abuse.

Who is Liberty House.

The Children's Advocacy Center for Marion and Polk Counties. 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.

Accredited through the National Children's Alliance.

Ready to respond staff of specially trained pediatric medical providers, family support specialists, and forensic interviewers. Liberty House services and processes are statutorily required (ORS 418.782).

Employs a highly specialized team of pediatric medical staff and trauma-informed mental health therapists to deliver services to patients.

They are outfitted, staffed, and ready to respond - like firefighters at a fire station.

Their “essential work” means comprehensive coordinated care that brings critical, lifesaving clinical and therapeutic help for children who have experienced child abuse, neglect, trauma, and grief. A child who comes to Liberty House:

Has a better chance receiving an accurate diagnosis (child abuse medicine is a sub-specialty of pediatric medicine).

Experiences fewer appointments and more coordination in a less traumatizing experience.

Over the course of the past 25 years and because of our intentional work, Liberty House has helped over 15,000 children. Presently, Liberty House is making long-term investment in North Marion County.

Liberty House coordinates the Marion County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) which includes law enforcement, District Attorney’s office, Department of Human Services, State Department of Justice, local school districts, and other organizations depending on the case.

The three aspects of Liberty House’s operations: Medical Clinic (care in a safe, child-friendly environment to children who face concerns of abuse or neglect); Hope & Wellness Services (trauma-informed mental health support); and, Prevention Services (child-abuse prevention training, to increase knowledge and change child-protective behaviors).