

PAIGE E. CLARKSON  
JEAN L. KUNKLE  
AMY M. QUEEN  
KATIE A. SUVER  
ADULT PROSECUTION  
TRIAL TEAM SUPERVISORS  
VANESSA COGGINS  
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

**WALTER M. BEGLAU**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



CONCETTA SCHWESINGER  
SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT  
TRIAL TEAM SUPERVISOR  
BRENDAN MURPHY  
JUVENILE DIVISION  
TRIAL TEAM SUPERVISOR  
KIMBERLY A. LARSON  
VICTIM ASSISTANCE DIRECTOR

**MARION COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
P.O. BOX 14500, 555 COURT ST NE  
SALEM, OREGON 97309

February 6, 2015

Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Health Care Committee  
Oregon Legislative Assembly  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2234 – Public Hearing February 6, 2015 at 1:00 pm

Dear Representative Greenlick and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

As the District Attorney for Marion County, I write to enthusiastically support HB 2234. Child abuse assessment centers play an invaluable role in the objective investigation of child abuse allegations. The top-quality reports they produce provide important information that helps us to hold offenders accountable in the justice system. I was deeply involved in developing and opening the assessment center that serves Marion and Polk Counties, Liberty House, and was relieved when it opened its doors nearly sixteen years ago. Since that time, research has shown that for Marion County, the cases in which Liberty House was involved had better results: more charges filed, more convictions/pleas, and longer sentences. This is crucial in stopping abuse and keeping children safe because offenders typically victimize many children, not just one.

I can tell you that the Marion County District Attorney's Office is continuing to be inundated with child sex abuse cases. So much so that I have dedicated an entire trial team – nearly 25% of my office's resources – to the prosecution of these cases. We need Liberty House.

I can also tell you that the funding for these centers is unsustainably low. HB 2234 would address part of the problem by ensuring that the medical assessments and forensic interviews are billable and reimbursable. Centers can not be reimbursed at all when the child only receives a forensic interview, and centers will only offer what the child actually needs.

Please support HB 2234.

Sincerely,

Walt Beglau,  
Marion County District Attorney