



April 8, 2025

Senator Bobby Jo Champion

Re: SF 1609, HomePlace Implementation

Dear Senators Champion and Wicklund:

It is with tremendous gratitude that we are writing to thank you for your leadership in supporting the HomePlace implementation funding bill. We are excited to hear this made it into the Health and Human Service committee budget bill for \$500,000! We know this is a difficult time to fund initiatives, so your ability to move us forward is huge!

We are standing ready to take our learnings and planning into implementation in 2026, and funding from the State will allow us to do so. We are currently working with a group of pilot families. We welcomed our first HomePlace baby into the world last month – mother and baby were healthy! And father was proud to be a healing partner in the process. Mother shared her joy with us:

"I feel so hopeful because I've received incredible support in my pregnancy from people I trust. Having a doula that shares my background was so comforting. We were able to give our baby a healthy start. From here, with the support of HomePlace, I feel ready for the parenting journey."

-Ellese, HomePlace pilot program participant

Evidence says that connection and belonging are solutions to reduce the chronic stress of racism and poverty. And a reduction in stress creates conditions for well-being, which means fewer high-risk pregnancies. We will be able to wrap around families with love and culturally relevant connection into the future because of your commitment and action to this purpose!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr Alike Galloway
Liberty's HomePlace CEO

Pastor Cyreta Odunyi
Liberty's HomePlace COO