



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Campus

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Vice Chair
District 3 - Matt McClain, Commissioner
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Commissioner
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Chair

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Paul Renner, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: HSE Form #2262 Florida Center for the Blind – New Youth Education Center

Dear Speaker Renner:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, please allow this letter to serve as our support for the Florida Center for the Blind's New Youth Education Center appropriation request submitted by Chairman Stan McClain (Form #2262AR).

The goal of this project is to construct a new Youth Education Center to include a Pre-K through Grade 2 school for blind and visually impaired students to help provide the level of skills and competencies through intensive braille and technology instruction in academic areas to allow them to be mainstreamed in public or charter school from grades 3 through 12. Additionally, the facility will have youth who will also be served after school, on weekends, and in the summer.

This facility will teach youth how to prepare, in a safe manner, healthy meals and snacks, and use self-care techniques. They will learn how to travel safely, which will enable them to exercise safely. They will also learn lifelong skills that will keep them independent in managing their medications, doctor visits, and grocery stores.

While at the facility, children will understand the nature of their vision loss and learn self-advocacy skills and techniques to help them ask for assistance when needed and decline help when not needed. They will also become more self-confident in their abilities. They will also, through professional staff, learn how to express their emotions and adjust to their blindness.

We hope you will consider this project worthy of an appropriation. Thank you for your time.

Very respectfully,

Michelle Stone
Chair



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January 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Leek, Chairman
Florida House Appropriations Committee
418 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: HSE Form #2262 Florida Center for the Blind – New Youth Education Center

Dear Chair Leek:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, please allow this letter to serve as our support for the Florida Center for the Blind's New Youth Education Center appropriation request submitted by Chairman Stan McClain (Form #2262AR).

The goal of this project is to construct a new Youth Education Center to include a Pre-K through Grade 2 school for blind and visually impaired students to help provide the level of skills and competencies through intensive braille and technology instruction in academic areas to allow them to be mainstreamed in public or charter school from grades 3 through 12. Additionally, the facility will have youth who will also be served after school, on weekends, and in the summer.

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January 30, 2024

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo, President
Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: HSE Form #2262 Florida Center for the Blind – New Youth Education Center

Dear President Passidomo:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, please allow this letter to serve as our support for the Florida Center for the Blind's New Youth Education Center appropriation request submitted by Chairman Stan McClain (Form #2262AR).

The goal of this project is to construct a new Youth Education Center to include a Pre-K through Grade 2 school for blind and visually impaired students to help provide the level of skills and competencies through intensive braille and technology instruction in academic areas to allow them to be mainstreamed in public or charter school from grades 3 through 12. Additionally, the facility will have youth who will also be served after school, on weekends, and in the summer.

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January 30, 2024

The Honorable Josie Tomkow, Chair
PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee
221 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: HSE Form #2262 Florida Center for the Blind – New Youth Education Center

Dear Chair Tomkow:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, please allow this letter to serve as our support for the Florida Center for the Blind's New Youth Education Center appropriation request submitted by Chairman Stan McClain (Form #2262AR).

The goal of this project is to construct a new Youth Education Center to include a Pre-K through Grade 2 school for blind and visually impaired students to help provide the level of skills and competencies through intensive braille and technology instruction in academic areas to allow them to be mainstreamed in public or charter school from grades 3 through 12. Additionally, the facility will have youth who will also be served after school, on weekends, and in the summer.

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January 30, 2024

The Honorable Doug Broxson, Chairman
Florida Senate Appropriations Committee
202 Senate Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: HSE Form #2262 Florida Center for the Blind – New Youth Education Center

Dear Chairman Broxson:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, please allow this letter to serve as our support for the Florida Center for the Blind's New Youth Education Center appropriation request submitted by Chairman Stan McClain (Form #2262AR).

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