

Submitter: Barbara Dougan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2872

I am writing on behalf of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (IL). This program is one of a kind in that it delivers books directly to the homes of children ages zero to 5 years of age. Parents sign up their children as soon as they are born and that child will receive a book a month right in their very own mailbox until they reach the age of 5. That is a total of 60 books that are all age appropriate and of interest to the children. The very first book is *The Little Engine That Could* and the last one is *Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come*. The parents are very excited and anxious to have their children a part of IL. If the parent is not an English speaker they can also begin understanding english along with their children. There is no other program that offers this same generous gift to children.

You may think that there are other ways for children to have access to books and there are, but there are many mothers who work and do not have time to spend time in the library, you may think there other programs that offer books to children, there are, but none that deliver a book once a month to a child's mailbox. The reader can count on looking forward to the postman bringing their book each and every month. *Start Making a Reader Today (SMART)* has a reading program, but it only begins when the children attend kindergarten. No other program is as important as IL as it reaches so many children who can always count on their book each month.