

February 28, 2023

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR. 97301

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Scharf and Nguyen, and members of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services:

My name is Mary Ellen Funderburg. I live in St. Helens, Oregon. I am writing in support of HB 2872. I am a volunteer for our local affiliate Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Columbia County. I have been a member of our groups advisory counsel since we were approved to be an affiliate of the National DPIL June 2018.

As an affiliate we pay the monthly cost of books and mailing for all enrolled children in Columbia County. All children 0-5 can enroll in the program and receive a free book every month until their 5th birthday. The number of enrolled children in Columbia County is 1,224 and we have graduated 1,237 children from the program. The total annual expenditure for books and mailing is on average \$32,850. The matching funds that would be provided by HJB 2872 would help ensure that DPIL of Columbia County can remain solvent and keep our implied promise to all the our enrollees that they will continue to receive their DPIL book every month until their 5th birthday.

Our affiliate promotes increased literacy and school readiness by working with our Community Action Center, WIC, and Head Start to reach out to, and enroll children age 0-5 in our County.

I would like to thank the committee on behalf of our affiliate and the children of Columbia County and I urge you to pass HB 2872.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Funderburg

Volunteer for Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Columbia County