



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

April 30, 2023



Co-Chairs, Sen. Steiner, Rep. Sanchez, Sen. Girod, Rep. Gombert, Rep. Smith and
members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

We are current and retired educators who are members of the Oregon State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators (DKG). We are writing in support of **HB 2872** on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and **HB 3198** which is the Early Literacy Success Initiative. These two bills expand investments in literacy support for families with children ages 0-5. Science is clear that from ages zero to five, the brain is growing and developing at its fastest rate. By using evidence and researched approaches to literacy from the earliest ages, we can make a difference.

As educators from all levels of the educational field, we believe that every child can be ready to start kindergarten with the basic literacy skills needed for success, if there are books in the home and parents are encouraged to read with their children. Not all parents can afford books for their children, nor do they always have the time or know how to make reading fun, so that their children will want to read more. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) is a proven, inexpensive program that can help children 0-5 and their parents with creating literacy excitement before starting school. It mails free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children, on a monthly basis, regardless of family income. The Imagination Library's home-gifting model gets children excited about owning books and inspires shared family reading by mailing books directly to children at their home. The books also include suggestions to parents on ways to build comprehension skills when reading with their child and lists some fun activities they might try that relate to the story.

As of April 27, 2023, there are 421,200 children 0-5 already enrolled in the program in Oregon. Unfortunately, that is less than 20% of the children who are eligible. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends reading aloud to children from birth. You can't do that without books in the home. DPIL provides this opportunity for all children if the state and community-based organizations work together with a 50/50 match of funds.

At our DKG State Convention, the weekend of April 28-30, 2023, a workshop was offered on The Dolly Parton Imagination Library; we are excited about supporting these two bills. With an investment in young children, and all of us working together, we can encourage children to develop a love of reading and learning, and improve third- grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates.

Sincerely,
Oregon State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Oregon State Organization of DKG - Members in support of HB 2872 and HB 3198

	Name	District or City
1	Cornie Kelleys	DURHAM DIST. 19
2	Lucie Jackson	Madras Findley Seno
3	Dana Mewgrove	LaGrande
4	Ardeth Woods	Malalla
5	Aliee Harness Reichle	Portland
6	Sandra Watts	Scappoose
7	Shirley House	Salem
8	Kristin Jones	Corvallis
9	Gynn Hughes	Grants Pass
10	Kaye Jones	Jefferson
11	Mariana Jones	Corvallis
12	Dana Law Boller	Forest Grove
13	Christine Luching	Pleasant Hill
14	Yvonne Farald	Eugene
15	Kathryn K Kelleher	Newberg
16	Darby Gray	Eugene
17	Dee Van Bunt	Grants Pass
18	Katherine Martell	Salem
19	Annette Lange Hildebrand	Madras
20	Jean M. Fairman	Milwaukie
21	Elizabeth M. Thompson	West Linn
22	Eleanor Marie Mueller	Salem
23	Grace Puges	Lake Oswego
24	Judy Brunner	Klamath Falls, OR
25	Ronita K. Nutta	Lincoln City
26	Janet Schutt	Hillsboro
27	Kelly Montoya	Hillsboro
28	Candy Ryan	Lincoln City
29	Linda de Pledge	Scappoose
30	Linda McCoy	St. Helens
31	Samantha Blake	Baker City
32	Laurie Daves	LaGrande OR
33	Sharon Hahstadt	Cove
34	Carolyn Kenney	Prospect
35	Brenda C. Johnson	Klamath Falls, OR
36	Ronita Sellman	Klamath Falls
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