

Submitter: Linda Grace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2811

I am writing to express my strong support for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon Program. This initiative is a wonderful opportunity to provide our children with a free book each month, fostering a love for reading and learning from a young age.

Reading is foundational to a child's development. By encouraging early literacy, I not only support their academic growth but also contribute to improving third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates. In Douglas County, fewer than 30 percent of third graders meet reading level expectations. Numerous studies indicate that providing books for children and helping them develop their home libraries will enhance their overall literacy development.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Oregon Imagination Library Account within the Department of Early Learning and Care Fund ensures that we have the necessary resources to sustain this invaluable program, backed by a 50 percent state match.

I urge everyone to recognize the profound impact that this program can have on our children's futures. Let us invest in their literacy and love of books—because when we invest in our children, we are investing in the future of our community and our state. Thank you.