

February 1, 2026

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Scharf and Walters, and House Interim Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services members,

I'm reaching out as a community member, grandparent, and retired educator (45 years). I'm a supporter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon (DPILOR). Please help in codifying our program into an Oregon statute through support for **HB 4022**.

DPILOR makes books available (at no cost) to every Oregon child under age 5, in every zip code, regardless of income. In April 2025, we achieved program coverage in all of Oregon's 36 counties; as of June, families were able to sign up for the fully bilingual English/Spanish book collection. Thanks to the State's investment and our 56 Local Program Partners, **73,347** Oregon children are enrolled; of that 8,954 are in Marion and Polk Counties.

In my community, we've seen the impact: Parents tell us all the time that children who receive the books each month, addressed directly to the child, are so excited and so happy to read. Not only does this improve parent-child bonds, but it reinforces literacy with every book.

This is a proven, powerful investment in Oregon children, and it's one we cannot afford to lose when test scores show failing literacy skills. Please support **HB 4022** to keep the Imagination Library of Oregon going strong and available for Oregon's children for years to come.

Sincerely,

E. Marie Mueller

Eleanor Marie Mueller

Salem, Marion County, Oregon

DPILOR Supporter

Former high school and community college instructor