

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

I'm reaching out as the chairperson of the affiliate in Southern Oregon for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon (DPIIOR) to ask for your help in codifying the program into an Oregon statute. **Please support HB 4022.**

In my community, we've seen the collective impact: in three short years we have enrolled 7000 children. Our partners include the Family Nurturing Center, Southern Oregon ESD, Early Learning Hub, the Jackson County Library Services and their 14 branch libraries. Charitable Foundation support has come from the Ford Foundation, Cow Creek Indian tribe, Anna May Foundation, Ashland Community Health Foundation, and individual donors. Each of these partners, from their own perspective working with young families and their children, express gratitude for the availability of the DPIL program and see the long-term benefits. It truly is up to all of us in our local communities to support and strengthen the next generation. HB4022 will assure ALL children have access to books to develop their reading skills, vocabulary, and be ready for kindergarten! This definitely aligns with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade testing goals that the State has set. It's a win-win. One of things that I have come to appreciate is the fact that it's not just the child or the child's family that benefits from the books...it's their future teachers and fellow classmates. No one is held back while waiting for some to catch up. Dolly's Foundation is amazing and I am so proud to be part of her success.

DPIIOR makes books available (at no cost) to every Oregon child under age 5, in every zip code, regardless of income. Thanks to the State's investment and my other Local Program Partners (56), today we can say **73,347** Oregon children are enrolled. As of April 2025, we've achieved program coverage in every one of Oregon's 36 counties, and as of June, families are able to sign-up for the fully bilingual English/Spanish book collection. This is a non-partisan issue and one that is supported by everyone.

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

Sincerely,  
LeAnn Mobley, Chair  
Jackson County  
DPIL Southern Oregon