

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 proud supporter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon (DPILOr) to ask for your help in codifying our program into an Oregon statute. Please support **HB 4022**.

DPILOr 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 our 56 Local Program Partners, 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.

In my community, we've seen the impact. As a volunteer at the Wilsonville Library, I had the opportunity to interview several families who enjoyed the benefits the program provides. One of my fondest memories is of a family with three children. The two older ones raced to show me "their" book collection in their bedroom. Then as soon as the mother picked up a book to read, the youngest climbed up in her lap and the two older ones sat on the floor at her feet, all very excited at the chance to have another reading session with Mom!

Additionally, I can only imagine the sorrow if a child is used to receiving a book each month and then the parents move to another location in Oregon where the program is not in place. By passing this bill, you can ensure that this no longer happens. All of us citizens of Oregon will benefit by starting children off on the right foot and introducing them to the joy and value of books; these children will grow into informed, educated citizens themselves.

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,

Charlene Vojtilla
Newberg, OR (Yamhill County)
Volunteer at Wilsonville Library (and voracious reader since childhood!)