

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

RE: support of HB 4022

As a volunteer who runs children's programs at the Family Promise of Tualatin Valley homeless shelter it brings me joy to be able to tell a family that they can receive books for their infants and toddlers by signing up for the Dolly Parton library. When I tell them about the library they can amass by the time their child turns 5 and how this helps build literacy and family cohesiveness, they are excited.

By passing this bill, you can help make sure that my promises are fulfilled - that the books continue coming until their child ages out of the program. I am grateful to United Way of the Columbia-Willamette for partnering with the state to bring this program to children in our county.

With the increasing challenge of limiting screen time for our children this program becomes even more important. Children of all income levels and all ages benefit from the infusion of books into their lives. As we learn more about the science of reading, we realize that exposure to the spoken word - such as when an adult shares a book with a child - is a central part of learning to read. And, in our splintered society, the shared exposure to such books as The Little Engine the Could seems valuable.

For all our kids - thank you for this program. I hope you move to make sure that it continues.

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.