



February 2, 2026

Chair Hartman and members of the House Early Childhood and Human Services Committee,

Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRESD) supports HB 4022. Northwest Regional ESD is the largest of Oregon's 19 education service districts. We serve students, educators, childcare providers and families living in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties with the goal of improving student learning by providing equitable access to high-quality services and support.

HB 4022 codifies Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon into a statute. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails a high-quality age-appropriate book once a month to children from birth until their fifth birthday at no cost to the parents. The program encourages children to develop a love of reading and learning and with the goal of improving third grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates. Since 2011, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has partnered with American Printing House for the Blind, Inc to provide many books available in braille and audio format to be accessible to young children who are blind and low vision, so they are not left behind. Currently, children in all four counties in the NWRESD region have access to Imagination Library programs. The NW Learning Hub (housed within NWRESD) in partnership with Columbia Pacific CCO is the local program sponsor for children and families in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

Developing the literacy skills necessary for becoming a reader starts before children get to school as early as when they are born, particularly when their parents and caregivers read to them. The Imagination Library of Oregon will continue to provide more equitable access to reading for more children by providing them with books. We urge your support of HB 4022!

Respectfully,

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