



Oregon CASA Network
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Subject: Oregon CASA Network Support for HB 4022, Oregon Imagination Library

Date: February 5, 2026

To: Chair Hartman and Members of the Committee

From: Stephanie Brown, Oregon CASA Network

Chair Hartman and Members of the Committee,

Oregon CASA Network (OCN) is pleased to offer testimony in support of House Bill 4022, which establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Program. As a statewide nonprofit organization, Oregon CASA Network provides training and support to local CASA programs across Oregon. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for children and youth in foster care, both in the courtroom and in their daily lives.

HB 4022 matters because many of the children we serve do not have stable access to books at home. Some enter care after experiencing poverty or neglect. Others move from placement to placement, and their routines and belongings change along with their address. A monthly book that arrives consistently can become something a child can count on. That kind of consistency is not small for a child whose life has been defined by disruption.

Books also help build early language and literacy skills that children need before they ever set foot in a kindergarten classroom. When children start school behind, it can take years to catch up. Early reading support helps children build vocabulary, attention, and comfort with learning. It also gives caregivers and other trusted adults an easy way to spend time with a child, talk, and connect. For many foster children, that connection is part of healing.

HB 4022 would also help reduce barriers for caregivers. Resource parents, kinship caregivers, and families supporting children involved in the child welfare system are often juggling appointments, school transitions, and urgent basic needs. A simple, statewide program that puts books directly into the home helps ensure more children are reached without added paperwork or the risk that a child misses out because adults are overwhelmed.

Oregon CASA Network supports HB 4022 because it strengthens early literacy and provides stability for young children, including children in foster care.

We urge your support.