



Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Andersen and Committee members,

My name is Alyssa Johnson, and I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Yamhill Enrichment Society to express our strong support for HB 4022, which would codify the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Oregon into statute.

YES has proudly partnered with the Imagination Library since 2013. During that time, we have mailed more than 317,000 books to children in our county. Enrollment consistently reaches approximately 50% of eligible children.

As a program partner, we fund and coordinate coverage throughout Yamhill County and portions of Polk County. Although geographically close to the metro area, Yamhill County spans a large and diverse region that includes both city centers and rural communities.

I recently heard someone suggest that families can rely on libraries for access to books. While libraries are invaluable community partners, many families in our county face transportation barriers and limited access due to work schedules. For these families, library access is not always practical or consistent. Imagination Library removes those barriers by delivering high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes each month—bringing not only learning opportunities, but also often times a smile on delivery day.

We are especially grateful that statewide coverage now ensures every child from birth to age five in Oregon is eligible to participate. The addition of a Spanish-language book option this past year has been transformative, allowing us to better serve families in our community.

Each year, we survey caregivers of enrolled children in the county, and the results clearly demonstrate the program's impact:

- 90% of parents in Yamhill County believe participation in Imagination Library has better prepared their child for kindergarten.
- Before enrolling, 48% of families owned fewer than 20 children's books in their home.
- Since receiving Imagination Library books, 52% of families report reading with their child more than once a day
- 67% of caregivers say their child asks to be read to more often.
- 78% report their child is more interested in books and reading.
- 61% report their child is using new words learned from the books.

Yamhill Enrichment Society (YES), a 501(c) 3 charitable organization, tax identification number 27-4846178.





- Over 90% of families with older children say those siblings also read and enjoy the books.

I would also like to share two brief comments from caregivers in our county:

First quote: “For those of us who live outside the city limits, the library is inaccessible for our youngest children. This was an amazing resource to allow them to have new books to read.”

Second quote: “Absolutely love this program. Being low income, this helps bring new books into our home to interest our child.”

With the state’s support of this program, we are reaching more children than ever before. State partnership allows us to focus more intentionally on outreach, strengthen enrollment stability for children in foster care, and expand equitable access through the Spanish-language option.

At YES, our goal is to provide accessible, equitable programs for all youth in our community. Imagination Library is one of the most effective tools we have to break down barriers to literacy, foster a lifelong love of reading, and support kindergarten readiness—setting children on a path toward educational success from the very beginning.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of HB 4022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyssa Johnson".

Alyssa Johnson  
Executive Director  
Yamhill Enrichment Society

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