

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

I'm reaching out as a proud supporter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon (DPILO) to ask for your help in codifying our program into an Oregon statute. Please support **HB 4022**.

DPILO makes brand new, age-appropriate books available (at no cost) to every Oregon child under age 5, in every zip code, regardless of income. Each book selected for the Imagination Library is vetted by the esteemed Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee, a specially selected panel of early childhood literacy experts taking into consideration how each book meets the different needs of children as they grow from birth to age five.

Thanks to the State's investment and Local Program Partners, today we can say **over 73,000** 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.

As a retired children's librarian, I know that it is vital to get books into children's hands. It supports early literacy skills, giving children the tools they need to be successful in school.

This is a proven, powerful investment in Oregon children 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,
Lisa Mead Hughes
Medford, Jackson County
AAUW branch co-president