

The Joint Subcommittee On General Government
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 10, 2021

RE: HB 5017 Written Testimony in Support of Appropriation from General Fund to State Library biennial expenses.

TO: The Joint Subcommittee On General Government:

The State Library of Oregon distributes vital funding for early literacy to Josephine Community Library through the Ready to Read grant, allowing my rural public library system to develop and implement early literacy programs that support our most vulnerable populations, which we would otherwise not be able to provide.

During the pandemic in 2020, the State Library distribution of Ready to Read grant funding helped our library reinvent its summer reading program to ensure our youngest learners had access to reading materials and literacy support during the statewide stay-at-home order.

We used the 2020 Ready to Read grant funding to develop a new program called “How To Sprout a Reader” — a monthly early literacy online meet-up and storytime for families and caregivers of children ages birth to five years. Parents and caregivers learned how to give a great storytime and also had the opportunity to ask questions and connect with other parents. The children were able to participate in a storytime experience online and have more opportunities for early literacy activities at home. The program included a storytime prop kit containing several months’ worth of storytime materials for the families to use during the online program and on their own.

I urge the Joint Subcommittee On General Government to approve the proposed budget appropriation for the State Library of Oregon and to consider increasing funding to rural communities such as Josephine County.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Lasky, library director