

2/23/2023

Honorable Committee Members,

I am submitting this written testimony on a positive behalf of the Oregon HB 2872 and SB 407 I have two great grandchildren in Columbia County, who have each been gifted books from The Dolly Parton Imagination Library from birth until they turned 5 years old. A newborn in that same family has just begun to receive his books. Each child has a book case where their books are proudly kept.

Each night at bedtime the parents complete a ritual of reading together with the children. This precious time is expected and looked forward to by both the adults and children. Even though the older children are now ages 9 and 5, their reading together continues. This has not only developed a love of reading within the children, but also has strengthened the bond among the family members.

Even though the children check books out of their city library and school library, having books that they personally have received in the mail creates a sense of pride and ownership. The anticipation that is felt towards the arrival of the new books is a positive feeling shown by the broad smiles on their faces as the package is unwrapped and each book is opened!

As a retired school teacher, proud great-grandmother, and a concerned citizen of Oregon, I support the passing of Oregon HB 2872 and SB 407 as a way to strengthen family values, raise student reading scores, and high school graduation rates.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Watts