

Submitter: Eleanor Mueller

On Behalf Of: HB 2872

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2872

Many members of my family are or have been elementary teachers. Something simple that makes a huge difference is whether or not children have literacy materials at home. If parents read to a child from birth (or even before birth), the child learns the sounds and rhythms of language. As the child grows, they become interested in the picture and the designs that form the words. They like the stories. They LEARN. They become readers. As readers, they discover that they can find information on almost everything so that they can learn more about their favorite subjects. Books become friends and resources. If children have their own, personal books, those become treasures. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program makes that possible. It would be wonderful to have it available state-wide. I can remember my mother, a first grade teacher before the days of kindergartens, saying that Child X had never held a pencil, didn't know what scissors were, and didn't know how to open or hold a book. On home visits, my husband, a fifth grade teacher, often observed filth and chaos, a big-screen TV, and no where for students to study, no books, and nothing with which to write.

Oregon needs an educated workforce. The best place to begin that is with literacy materials for each child, books of their own, and families who will read to or with them to get things off to a good start from birth to kindergarten. Please support HB 2872.