

Submitter: Cedar Horton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2872

Chair Reynolds's, Vice Chairs Scharf and Nguyen, and members of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services,

My name is Cedar Horton and I live in St.Helens, in Columbia County, Oregon. I am writing in support of HB 2872. The imagination library which provides books to youth, from birth to age 5, is incredibly beneficial, not only for our children, but for our future. I believe literacy is so important in early education and the basis of this program is to get books into the hands of those early learners. Statewide, matching funds would allow for the stabilization, and expansion of the program, both in regions where it is currently available, and those where it is not yet. A local kindergarten teacher told me about the amount of children she has coming into her kindergarten classes, not knowing how to hold a book or even read it correctly cover to cover. This lack of basic literary knowledge is both concerning and heartbreaking. The sign up process is simple and having a book effortlessly arrive in the mail monthly, I believe, helps some parents who wouldn't otherwise introduce literacy. My children have personally benefited from this program and while my daughter has outgrown it she started reading in preschool starting kindergarten with a love for books. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this and please consider voting to pass HB 2872.

Cedar Horton