

## Support HB 2872

### **The Imagination Library is a proven strategy for improving Early Literacy**

Studies across the country show that Imagination Library programs increase the time parents spend reading to their pre-school children and strengthen children's basic reading skills:

#### **Syracuse, NY**

After being enrolled in IL for four months, the percentage of families reading to their child 3 times a week or more jumped from 59.7% to 85.2%. The percent that read to their child daily doubled from 29% to 59.3%.

*LeMoyne College Center for Urban and Regional Applied Research*

#### **Memphis, TN (Shelby County)**

Participants in the IL /Books from Birth program score 8 points higher (on an 86 point scale) on the kindergarten readiness assessment.

*The Urban Child Institute and Memphis Public Schools*

#### **Multi-community Study**

A parent survey in three communities across the USA found:

- Between 66% and 75% of families read more to their children after receiving the Imagination Library;
- The lower the families income, the greater impact on reading frequency; and
- For 34% of families, the Imagination Library was the primary source of books in the home.

*High Scope Educational Foundation*

#### **Battle Creek, MI (Willard Public Library)**

The percentage of families who never read to their child dropped from 12% to 1% after receiving the Imagination Library.

#### **United Way of Southwest Minnesota**

Families reading together 5-6 times each week increased by 3% and daily readers jumped by 15% with the Imagination Library.

In Oregon, state funding would dramatically increase the number of children benefiting from Imagination Library books. Currently, about 39,000 pre-school children are enrolled in the program. With the state's financial support, that number is expected to grow to 150,000 within a few years.

There is no other program that would have such a huge statewide impact for a relatively low cost. Please support HB 2872.

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