

Submitter: ERIC IKENOUYE

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2811

As a librarian, few things offer as much hope as child reading. While libraries can fill many gaps in literacy for young readers, we can't simply give a child the gift of a new book every month that they can keep and call their own.

Imagination Library has been giving children books for 30 years, and those gifts are invaluable for parents. A child receiving those books in the mail shows them that reading is so vital that someone outside their home is looking out for them and wants them to read.

My daughter was a participant, and while she aged out years ago, some of those books still sit on her shelf. Receiving the Imagination Library books in the mail turbocharged her love for reading. Those books were some of her first possessions, and her pride in ownership made reading them even more meaningful.

While there are many budgets to balance and bills to consider, a simple calculation needs to be recognized: the more books a child has, the more they read.

Oregon has a chance to do something great for children, families, and the future of the State with HB2811 by putting books into the children's hands and giving them a boost as they start their journey toward reading. I encourage you to support this Bill to allow more children to read beyond their means.