



January 28, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Dear Representatives,**

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2811 and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Oregon program. Since October 2013, the Yamhill Enrichment Society has proudly partnered with the Imagination Library to deliver over 290,000 books to children across Yamhill County. These books reach children from all backgrounds, regardless of financial or geographical limitations, helping to foster early literacy, encourage positive family interactions, and ignite a lifelong love of reading.

Over the past decade, we have worked tirelessly to secure funding for the program through community events, sponsorships, grants, and donations. In the spring of 2024, the State of Oregon approved temporary funding to cover half of the book fees for children enrolled in the Imagination Library, reducing costs and enabling us to serve more children. This support has been instrumental in increasing enrollment, expanding our outreach, and building valuable partnerships with schools and local nonprofits.

As someone who has seen firsthand the value of early childhood education, I know that access to books is a critical factor in kindergarten readiness. Earlier in my career, I worked at a Title I elementary school where part of my role was assessing kindergarten readiness using tools like DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills). Many students arrived with limited access to books and reading experiences at home. The Imagination Library helps bridge that gap, setting children and families up for future success.

I firmly believe that continued funding for the Imagination Library is vital for the future of our state. Expanding this program will benefit Oregon's children today and for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this invaluable initiative.

Alyssa Johnson

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Yamhill Enrichment Society (YES), a 501(c) 3 charitable organization, tax identification number 27-4846178.