



Oregon Early Learning Council

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 350

Salem, OR 97301

January 29, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

SUE MILLER
*Chair, Early Learning
Council*

KATY BROOKS

PETER BUCKLEY

ELIZABETH FARRAR
CAMPBELL

DR. MARGARET MILLER

SOOBIN OH

RUBY RAMIREZ

MARIE SIMONDS

ALYSSA CHATTERJEE
*Early Learning
System Director*

Dear Chair Hartman and Committee members,

The Early Learning Council offers its support for HB 2811, the Imagination Library of Oregon. This program encourages the love of books and reading for our state's youngest learners and their families.

The Council is thrilled to see Governor Tina Kotek's initiative towards the importance of early literacy as we know that early literacy leads to a positive impact in one's well-being. Research shows that children who have access to books in their early years are more likely to develop strong language skills and succeed in schools. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program provides high-quality, free books for children from birth to age five that are directly delivered to their homes every month regardless of income.

The Department of Early Learning and care has been administering the program since 2023 and is seeking statutory authority to officially implement the Imagination Library of Oregon Program in alignment with the designated funds. The bill will:

- Establish the Imagination Library of Oregon Program.
- Authorize DELC to contract with nonprofit organizations to administer the program.
- Creates an Oregon Imagination Library Account within the Department of Early Learning and Care for funding the program.

The Early Learning Council is committed to supporting this program and its investment for Oregon's youngest learners. We offer our support for HB 2811 and encourage your support on this bill.

Sincerely,

Sue Miller
Chair, Early Learning Council