

Submitter: Noreen Dunnells

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2811

I am writing to express my support for state funding for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. Since 2003 in my role as President of United Way of Central Minnesota and United Way of Lane County I have been a strong advocate for this valuable early literacy program that encourages a love of learning. Both United Ways served as a host for the Imagination Library program. Over the past two decades I have heard so many stories from families including children who place their favorite book under their pillow at night to a child from Cottage Grove who received DPIL books for two years and when they turned 5 in 2021 they sent a note and their saved allowance of over \$50 so that "other children could receive books too".

Respectfully submitted,  
Noreen J. Dunnells, President & CEO  
United Way of Lane County