



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

February 11, 2026 10:00 AM

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

(Sc)

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4022 A-Eng.

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I want to take a moment to explain my vote on HB 4022.

First, let me be clear: I strongly support early childhood literacy. Encouraging a love of reading at a young age is one of the best investments we can make in a child's future. The Imagination Library has helped many families access books in their homes, and I respect the positive intent behind this program.

However, my vote against HB 4022 was not a vote against literacy, nor was it a vote against children or families. It was a vote in favor of legislative accountability and proper oversight of taxpayer dollars.

As drafted, the bill did not provide sufficient structure regarding how books are selected, what standards guide that selection process, or how the Legislature would receive ongoing accountability reports. When state funds are appropriated, particularly on a recurring basis, there should be clear guardrails that ensure transparency, content standards consistent with Oregon values, and measurable outcomes reported back to lawmakers.

My concern is not with any one specific book. Rather, it is with the absence of a formal framework that ensures the Legislature, and by extension, taxpayers, retain oversight over publicly funded programming. When we fund a program at the state level, we have a responsibility to ensure there are clear criteria, reporting requirements, and mechanisms for review.

I believe we can support early literacy while also establishing stronger accountability measures. I remain committed to policies that support families, strengthen education, and steward taxpayer resources responsibly. Thank you for the opportunity to explain my position, and as always, I welcome your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Bunch".

Matt Bunch, Oregon State Representative House District 51