



# Legislative Engagement Toolkit

Sharing Your Imagination Library Story for Early Literacy



## YOUR VOICE MATTERS

***This Legislative Session, join Imagination Library of Washington and Share Your Family's Story***

Legislators make very important decisions about programs that support children and families, and while they often hear from lobbyists and organizations, they rarely hear directly from families and individuals who the program is impacting. Your voice and personal stories can help bring their decisions to life in a powerful way.

**You don't need to be an expert or know policy details**—sharing what Dolly Parton's Imagination Library means to your family is more than enough. Your story helps lawmakers understand the real impact of this program in homes like yours across Washington.

***In this toolkit for families, you will find:***

- Easy steps for reaching out to legislators
- "Find Your Legislator" tool
- Sample messaging for sharing your story
- "I Love My Imagination Library" coloring sheet
- Downloadable social media graphics
- ...and more!

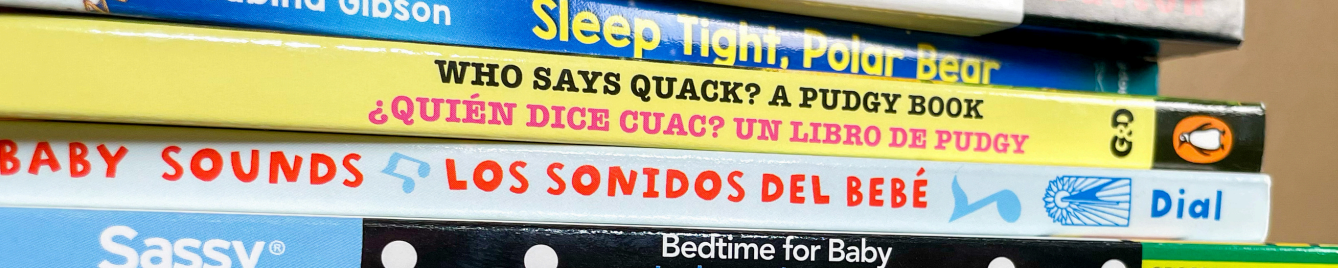
**THANK  
YOU FOR  
TAKING  
PART!**



## Our Mission

To foster a love of reading among young learners by ensuring equitable access to free monthly books mailed directly to their homes from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Together, we are building a statewide culture of reading and learning. Through the dedication of local program partners, community organizations, and passionate champions, nearly 100,000 Washington children receive a free, high-quality book in their mailbox each month. United in this work, we are opening doors to literacy so every young learner can succeed in school and beyond—empowered to Dream More, Learn More, Care More, and Be More, just as Dolly Parton so beautifully reminds us.



## Imagination Library of Washington Legislative Session Quick Facts

- Washington's 2026 legislative session takes place from January 12 - March 12.
- Imagination Library of Washington, the statewide partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, will be asking lawmakers to fulfill a **\$2.75 million funding request** that will allow for Washington's 85,000+ children enrolled in the Imagination Library to continue to receive a monthly book in the mail through June 2027.
- This necessary funding helps Imagination Library of Washington keep a **50/50 funding partnership** that makes free books possible for families. Half of the cost of books is covered by Imagination Library of Washington, and the other half is raised by 43 local program partners—community organizations that run Imagination Library programs in every county across the state. Together, this shared funding ensures children can continue to receive a free book every month, mailed right to their home.
- In 2025, the state faced a very tough budget year, and Imagination Library of Washington did not receive funding. This put the program at risk. Thankfully, Imagination Library's state champions at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) stepped in to help. Their financial support filled the funding gap through June 2026, making sure children could keep receiving their free books each month.

## Are You Ready to Inspire State Leaders with your Imagination Library Story?

### GETTING STARTED

Participating in the legislative session as someone who is passionate about the Imagination Library is easy, and it's one of the most powerful ways you can help keep the magic of free books coming to children throughout Washington. **All you need is your story**, sharing how Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has helped your child or your family truly matters.

#### STEP ONE: Finding Your Legislators

- ➔ Visit the **Find Your Legislator** webpage here: [app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/](http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/) or [CLICK HERE](#) for direct access. Once you enter your address, you'll find the list of your State District legislators. Each district has two Representatives and one Senator.

Keep your district page handy – you will need to access it in the next step.

#### STEP TWO: Creating Your Story/Message

- ➔ Sharing your story is simple - write like you talk and express your sincere experience with the Imagination Library. **You only need 3-5 sentences.** Choose what prompts feel easiest, or create your very own:
- "The Imagination Library matters to my family because..."
  - "Receiving monthly books from the Imagination Library has..."
  - "Before Imagination Library, reading in our home looked like..."
  - "One change I've seen in my child since receiving Imagination Library books is..."

- Once you've drafted your story/message, refer back to the Find Your Legislator webpage, and email your district legislators. By clicking on each legislator's name, here you will find a button to email them directly.

### STEP THREE: Use a Plug and Play Email Template (optional)

- If it feels easier, you're welcome to use one of the pre-written email templates instead of writing your own message. We've included two options for you to choose from.

#### Short Email Template (5-6 sentences)

Hello Senator/Representative [Last Name],

I'm a parent in your district, and my child participates in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Receiving free, high-quality books each month has made a meaningful difference for our family and has helped build a true love of reading at home. These books have created special moments for us to slow down, read together, and connect as a family. Watching my child's excitement when a new book arrives has shown me how powerful early access to books can be in building confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation for learning.

I hope you will support continued funding for Imagination Library of Washington so families like mine can keep reading and learning together.

Thank you for your time and leadership,

[Your Name], [City]



#### Longer Email Template (More Detail)

Hello Senator/Representative [Last Name],

I'm a parent in your district, and I'm writing to share how Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has impacted my family. Since enrolling my child, receiving free, age-appropriate books each month has helped us build consistent reading routines and sparked real excitement around learning.

Each book delivery feels special in our home. It gives us a reason to slow down, read together, and spend meaningful time connecting as a family. Over time, I've seen my child's confidence grow and their curiosity deepen—simply because books are always within reach. Having access to books at home has made a real difference for our family, and I know many Washington families rely on this program to support early learning, especially during times when budgets are tight.

I respectfully ask that you support the \$2.75 million year-two funding request to restore and maintain Imagination Library of Washington's 50% state match model, so children across our state can continue receiving the gift of reading from the very start.

Thank you for supporting Washington's youngest learners and for listening to the voices of families like mine.

Sincerely,

[Your Name], [City]

## OPTIONAL: Share Your Story by Video (60 seconds)

→ If writing feels like too much, you can still participate by submitting a video recording of your story.

📱 Using your phone, record a **30–60 second video** answering one question: “*Why does the Imagination Library matter to your family?*”

### Tips:

- Speak naturally
- Hold your phone horizontally
- It’s okay to have your child join you in the video!

Email your video to Imagination Library of Washington at [info@imaginationlibrarywashington.org](mailto:info@imaginationlibrarywashington.org). (ILWA can share your story directly with legislators on your behalf)

## What Happens After You Send Your Message?

Every family’s voice helps show why Imagination Library of Washington matters and how monthly books make a real difference for children. You’ve sent your message—what happens next?

- Legislators and their staff **read and track messages from constituents**
- Personal stories are logged by topic and influence budget discussions
- You may receive a short response—or none at all (that’s normal!)
- Even one message helps build momentum

## Additional Engagement Opportunities - Coloring Sheet and Social Media



***Have your child color a special “I Love My Imagination Library” coloring sheet!***

Want a fun, creative way to have your children get involved? Download this coloring sheet and print, let your child color it, and then email their masterpiece to your district legislators to show how much your family loves Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library!

★ [DOWNLOAD COLORING SHEET HERE](#)

An easy way to share the artwork once complete is to take a photo of it, save the picture, and email it to your legislators with a special message.



## Social Media Sharing (Optional)

If you're active on social media and would like to share that you proudly shared your Imagination Library story with state legislators, we've made it easy for you.

Below are three social media images you can download and post to share your support. Help spread the word by encouraging your friends, family, and followers to join you and raise their voices for Imagination Library of Washington!

### [Social Graphic 1](#)



### [Social Graphic 2](#)



### [Social Graphic 3](#)



To download these social media graphics for posting, [CLICK HERE](#).

## A big [THANK YOU](#) for sharing your Imagination Library Story!

To learn more about Imagination Library of Washington and follow our work, visit us online at [imaginationlibrarywashington.org](http://imaginationlibrarywashington.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

[info@imaginationlibrarywashington.org](mailto:info@imaginationlibrarywashington.org)

"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children."

