



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

EVAN GLASS
VICE PRESIDENT

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: Support House Bill 383, The Young Readers Program - Expansion Act

Chair Atterbeary and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of House Bill 383, The Young Readers Program - Expansion Act, which calls for \$500,000 to be set aside as matching funds for Maryland affiliates of Imagination Library. Reading is one of the most important tools and opportunities for growth that any child can receive, and we must support all children in their budding love of reading.

This bill would, among other things, create a matching grant program to provide funds to support the establishment of reading programs in Maryland. The legislation would benefit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is a book gifting program that provides free, high-quality books to children, regardless of their family's income. Imagination Library affiliates would serve as the program's operator and administrator.

Imagination Library of Montgomery County was founded in 2015 and to-date has distributed more than 40,000 books to children across the county. With the passage of this bill, it is my hope that they are able to serve even more children in our community and statewide.

Sincerely,

Evan Glass
Vice President