



## **State Senator Nickie J. Antonio - District 23**

Senate Transportation Committee

June 26, 2024

Sponsor Testimony S.B. 290

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, and fellow members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony for Senate Bill 290 which would create a license plate in support of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio is a 501(c)(3) that serves all 88 counties in the state of Ohio. Affiliated with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Imagination Library of Ohio was created in partnership with First Lady Fran DeWine in 2019, providing children from birth to age 5 a monthly book, free of cost. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio has provided over 15 million books for Ohio children since its beginning, and a total of 770,294 children are enrolled or have been served through this program.

The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library license plate will display an appropriate logo and words selected by representatives of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and approved by the registrar. Residents of Ohio will have the opportunity to buy this special "Dolly" license plate for \$25. The proceeds will benefit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio and be used to cover operational expenses, such as book distribution.

You may notice there is an emergency clause attached to this bill. It simply allows the Ohio BMV to begin the process of making the license plate available to the public immediately, instead of having to wait 90 days.

The science of reading and The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, was a primary focus in Governor DeWine's State of the State Address given this year. As a parent and former educator, I have been pleased to work with the Governor on this legislation.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.