



Imagination Library of Montgomery County, Maryland

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*Imagination Library of
Montgomery County*
Council Testimony - April 8, 2024

*Susan Greif - from IL of MoCo, an affiliate of DPIL. Thank you for this opportunity...

*As a reminder, we have one mission: to get books into the hands of 0-5-year-olds by mailing free, age-appropriate books to their home, one per month, until they turn 5 to promote books, learning, school readiness and early literacy.

*Since I spoke to you last year, there have been several very significant developments in the IL world.

+While we have not taken new enrollments, we continue to send books to children already registered, and we've surpassed 105,000 books mailed since 2015.

+We have reconstituted our board with like-minded individuals with a variety of experience in the public and private sectors.

+With the addition of 7 statewide programs, 1 in 8 children in the entire United States receives DPIL books.

Perhaps most importantly,.....

We are proud of our advocacy on behalf of the Young Readers Program Expansion Act.....a bill spearheaded by Del. Marc Korman to give grants to local affiliates. Clearly, the State sees the proven role DPIL can play in the community.

*It has taken some time, but the administration and funding related to the bill have moved from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services to the MD State Library Agency.

That agency awarded us a grant of almost \$86,000 last month.

It comes with the challenge to dramatically raise the number of new enrollments, prioritizing children in high poverty zip codes.

*So we are asking you to match this \$86,000 and signal your support. We feel strongly that we must demonstrate the commitment of local government in time for the next State grant cycle - which occurs before the end of 2024.

Parents and children love our program, and our State Library Agency is showing its belief in the Imagination Library model for our youngest children.

Please partner with us by showing your financial support for a growing and robust affiliate.