

From: [LIO Mat-Su](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Mat-Su Imagination / Bright Beginnings
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:56:01 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Tari Patinka [<mailto:patinka@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:42 AM
To: LIO Mat-Su
Subject: Fwd: Mat-Su Imagination / Bright Beginnings

Dear Senators,

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> My name is Tari Patinka and I am a resident of Knik, Alaska and a long time alaskan of 27 years. I am taking the time this evening to write to you with a most disheartened voice about the idea for the Senate's financial removal of the Dolly Pardon's Imagination Library books that are funded through the Bright Beginnings program.

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> I am a stay-at-home mother of two beautiful boys who takes the time to help them learn through play, crafts and reading. We also attend the Library every month which we are thankful for and excited that there is finally going to be a new one! My mother was also a stay-at-home mother until we reached Kindergarten and read to us vividly. My point is that I was ahead when I reached Kindergarten and often bored with the daily activities our teacher had for us. Early reading is so beneficial for all children and I am proof. I want to do as my mother did and pass all the knowledge I can down to my boys and it starts with the books we receive from this program.

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> Since 2011, my son Samuel has received a book in the mail every month. I would read to him so much that as he got to be two, he actually looked forward to a book in the mail! Now you and I know every good kid gets excited about books in the mail whether it be an Imagination Library book, Highlights issue or a magazine... Reading creates a positive environment for the recipient of (in this case) the story. It teaches them so much and helps with vocabulary, life situations, imagination, creativity and of course letter and word recognition. My newest edition, Seth has received two books and I am hoping many more to come until the age of five. I will donate the Imaginarium books when my boys have outgrown them to other children who need books in their lives and cannot afford them. Linda Conover has been an excellent contact sending activity sheets every month that go with each book to make us adults think more and challenge our children. I also appreciate the sponsorship of activities that we have been able to attend such as bowling.

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> As having two recipients of Bright Beginning books that have enriched my son's lives, it is terrible to hear that this wonderful program helping the children of Wasilla and the Mat-Su area is going to be cut permanently. Please know that the Mat-Su children already need so much and a book doesn't seem to be asking for much; especially with the benefits that will be reaped from the years of reading before our children even get into pre-school and Kindergarten. Please pass my letter along when it comes time to do budget cuts. Please think of the more literate and versed children we will have as proof in the future from this wonderful program.

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> Regards,

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> Tari J. Patinka, Republican

> 8242 West Wesley Drive

> Wasilla, AK 99623

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