

## Graham Courtney

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**From:** Stephanie Lind <stephaniel@wccls.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:38 AM  
**To:** Rep McLain  
**Subject:** HB 2479 Public Hearing TODAY

**Importance:** High

Hello Susan -

I received your email update yesterday. My you are busy! I appreciate being informed of your activities and enjoyed reading about them and seeing the fun pictures.

As you know, I have been working in public libraries in Washington County for 25 years. This has included work in a big library (Hillsboro), a small library (Cornelius) and currently for the county (Washington County Cooperative Library Services). Therefore, I have seen the impact of state funds for public libraries from many perspectives.

I want to let you know that some librarian friends of mine will be testifying before you today regarding HB 2479. They will explain the import components of HB 2479. However, since I am one of your constituents and a long-time resident and librarian of western Washington County, I want to give you my perspective.

There are two items in this HB that I wish to address.

The first is the proposal to increase the minimum amount distributed to each library. This increase would be significant for our small libraries. They can make that \$200 go a long way in improving the lives of the youth in their communities. Public libraries such as Cornelius, are critical in the lives of underserved and disadvantaged youth. As a board member of the Friends of the Cornelius Public Library, I see first-hand how well these types of funds are put to use and the impact they make. Additionally, these funds are also often used to leverage other funds.

The second recommendation I would like to emphasize is the expansion for use of the funds to individuals birth through 17 years of age. We have focused much energy and attention on the youngest children in the county in recent years. And, although much work is yet to be accomplished in the early learning arena, we have also recently renewed efforts to improve our support of school age youth. We have been specifically been reaching out to our school district officials and staff to accomplish this goal in a coordinated and collaborative manner. Expanding the ages that can be focused on with these funds will provide us with the opportunity to address student support in a more comprehensive manner. It will also allow for more flexibility in addressing the most pressing issues within each local community.

I highly recommend that you and your House Committee on Education colleagues support this bill and the efforts that it represents. I am available to answer any questions you may have about our library services for the youth of Washington County.

Keep up the great work Susan!  
Stephanie