

March 2, 2015

Joint Sub-Committee on General Government
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Comment on Senate Bill 5519

Dear Members of the Committee,

As President of the Oregon Library Association, as well as the Library Director at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon, I ask you to support the Governor's recommended budget for the State Library. As an academic librarian, I can't emphasize strongly enough the importance of the Oregon State Library in supporting the K-20 education continuum of Oregon.

The educational vision of 40-40-20 now drives all educators to work more closely together. Increasingly, we see a connection in education between the K-12, college, and workforce environments. Also more than ever, all Oregonians need to develop multiple literacies - such as reading skills, information literacy, and digital literacy. Without these complex literacies, students will be ill-prepared for the next step in education and for life and work beyond school. School, academic, and public libraries are effectively working together to teach these literacies to students of all ages so that they are prepared for the next step.

The State Library provides strong leadership and expertise in supporting and bringing these efforts together. The perfect example of this is the recent adoption of the Oregon School Library Standards by the Oregon State Board of Education. These library standards stress Information Literacy, Reading Engagement, Social Responsibility, and Technology Integration. They were created by the Oregon Association of School Libraries, which received Library Services and Technology Grant funding from the State Library, as well as indispensable support and guidance from the State Library's School Library Consultant. Its adoption by the State Board of Education strengthens literacy education in K-12 and subsequently affects the literacy readiness of students for college or the workforce.

Other examples of State Library support in the K-20 education continuum include:

- OSLIS, the Oregon School Library Information System, high quality information and information literacy curriculum for Oregon's K-12 community.
- The Oregon Statewide Database Licensing Program which provides high quality electronic resources to public, academic, and school libraries.
- And the future administration of Answerland, Oregon's statewide virtual reference service, available to all Oregonians.

In conclusion, the State Library is the link that ties together literacy development in the education continuum. It needs full support and funding for these efforts.

Sincerely,

Candice Watkins, President, OLA
(Clatsop Community College)