

Co-Chair Smith, Co-Chair Manning and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Aletha Bonebrake. I am the current Chair of the State Library Board. I live in Baker City and I am the retired director of the Baker County Library District, having served in that capacity for 22 years, and a founding member of the Sage Library Consortium combining the catalogs of 77 public, academic, school and special libraries serving 15 counties in Eastern and Central Oregon.

The Board is made up of nine members appointed by the Governor to meet the diversity of composition outlined in 2015 HB 3523. The Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designees were added to the Board as permanent members and two rotating positions designated to be filled by agency staff are now completed. As directors from the previous Board cycle off, replacement candidates are selected to ensure representation of each of the constituencies listed in HB 3523, and a geographic balance for directors representing the public. The Board now comprises a diverse and knowledgeable membership able to carry out the specific activities listed in HB 3523 to improve interagency cooperation and to strengthen and streamline the delivery of its core services to state government and the reading disabled public, and to provide technical support and management of federal grants to public, academic, school and special libraries throughout Oregon.

The implementation of HB 3523, passed by the Legislature in the 2015, and our strategic plan for 2014-2017 have been the work of the Board this biennium. The four strategic imperatives guiding this work have dramatically changed how we look at our business of delivering services to meet our responsibility to our constituencies.

Focus on the Customer: This imperative is being met by developing customer service standards, defining customer segments, identifying potential new customers, and assessing customer satisfaction to determine allocation of resources.

Build Awareness of the State Library: A “reputation audit” was conducted to develop an awareness campaign to create increased usage of the State Library by key audiences.

Enhance Partnerships: This strategic imperative has resulted in identifying partnerships, determining where we can reduce overlap and duplication of services, and collaborating with partner agencies to increase effectiveness and efficiency in services to all Oregonians.

Cultivate Staff Strengths: The success of this imperative is being achieved by instituting a performance management system to provide a framework for continuous improvement and appropriate professional development for all staff.

The State Library Board appreciates the direction given in HB 3523 and the subsequent support shown for maintaining and strengthening State Library’s role of service to all Oregonians. HB 3523 and the budgetary support for its implementation this past biennium has been a timely challenge to finding better ways to manage information among all government agencies and new purpose to the State Library’s three organizational departments and its advisory councils to meet these challenges with better service delivery systems and cost-saving decisions.

The Board has been deeply involved in these changes and looks forward to continuing to meet the expectations of the Legislature for increased efficiency through technology and partnerships.

The Embedded Librarian Program for government services is an innovative change that has been implemented by the State Library staff as a result of the Board's strategic planning process. In 2016 26% of State Agency employees used the State Employee Information Center website and 7,863 reference transactions were completed.

The State Library has approximately 20 partnerships with state agencies, cultural institutions, philanthropic organizations and federal agencies. One of the most successful partnerships created by ORS 357.900 is the Reference Coordinating Council, comprising the State Librarian, State of Oregon Law Librarian and State Archivist. In response to HB 3523 requirement to streamline electronic resources acquisition and delivery the Council developed a process for seeing that electronic subscription requests from agencies were routed to the appropriate member agency. Rules for effective management and sharing of reference databases purchased by all state agencies as outlined in ORS 357.115 were established and adopted in June 2016. The State Library has created a spreadsheet of 118 agency liaisons to have a broad coalition identifying electronic resource needs to be coordinated. The State Library has also been able to purchase over \$150,000 in electronic resources with money saved through weeding the print collection and closing the Reference Room, thereby vacating an entire floor and recovering rental costs.

The strongest program the State Library provides to the children of Oregon is the Ready to Read Grant Program, which currently provides \$.94 per child. With the expansion of the program to age 17 authorized under SB 75, the Governor's Budget for the Ready to Read program without commensurate funding would reduce the per child allocation from 94 cents to 67.2 cents per child. Maintaining the program at 94 cents per child would require an increase in the Governor's Recommended Budget from \$978,540, to \$1,465,695. If passed by the legislature, the SB 75 expansion of the Ready to Read grant program also provides the opportunity for after-school or out-of-school programming during the school year in addition to traditional summer reading programs. SB 75 serves to align this very successful program with the age and programming guidelines of other state literacy goals and the education investments of the state, all of which have involved a broad stakeholder process.

All 133 eligible public libraries in Oregon applied for and were awarded a grant in 2016. In 2016 every \$1 in grant funding leveraged an average of \$1.89 in community support. The State Library thanks the Legislature for continued funding of this marvelous program touching every child in the state.

The Board supports the State Librarian in the innovative organizational development of the past biennium and in fostering a cooperative environment among staff and agency partners.

Thank you for your kind attention. I would be pleased to answer any questions.