

**From:** OLA President  
**To:** [JWMPS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 5013 - Support for appropriation for County Law Libraries  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 4:26:25 PM

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From: Elsa Loftis, President, Oregon Library Association

On behalf of the Oregon Library Association (OLA), I'm writing today in support of the appropriation for county law libraries provided in HB 5013.

The Oregon library community recognizes the many valuable services provided by county law libraries, including access to specialized legal books and databases, continuing education materials, secure wifi and public computers, and expert law librarians and support staff to assist patrons.

A core value of OLA is "*equitable access to information*" and county law libraries enable attorneys and non-attorneys alike to obtain critical legal information unavailable anywhere else. The erroneous belief that everything is freely available online is pervasive and misleading, so county law libraries remain the most reliable source for current, authoritative, and relevant legal materials. County law libraries are open to everyone, and trained law librarians are important spokespeople of access to justice matters, advocating for access to legal information, resources, and referrals.

The unique and crucial services afforded by Oregon county law libraries continue to be urgently needed, to support solo and small firm attorneys as well as to assist non-attorneys as they research and navigate a complex and intimidating legal system.

OLA asks you to support the appropriation for county law libraries in HB 5013 and thanks you for your consideration.

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Elsa Loftis  
OLA President 2016-17