

DATE: February 8, 2018
TO: House Committee on Judiciary
RE: HB 4097, relating to legal resources

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed HB 4097 as introduced and is in support of this measure. We ask that you make a DO PASS recommendation today at your work session on this bill. We do not find that the dash 1 amendment provides additional value to this measure.

Lane County enjoys a positive relationship with the Lane County Circuit Court. We share a building, and are actively engaged in planning for a new courthouse and very much appreciate the support of the Legislature in its actions to provide matching funds for the initial work on this project.

Our Law Library is always seeking ways to engage with the needs of its customers, from pro se litigants to practicing attorneys. The program envisioned in HB 4097 certainly aligns with issues we already assist our customers with.

This said, the Legislature made significant changes to the way court fees are used to support law libraries and family mediation programs in 2011 and 2013. As a result, the programs in our County have been resource constrained to the extent that we have sought biennia by bienna authorizations to share money between these programs. A long term solution has been elusive, and frustrating.

HB 4097 comes with no additional resources for the court or for the counties. While not a fatal flaw from our perspective, it is something that your policy Committee should be aware of. Lane County will continue to work on the finance related issue arising from previous Legislative action within the Ways and Means Committee and with the Judicial Department directly.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER