



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager

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DATE: February 22, 2018

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: HB 4097A, relating to legal resources

Dear Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed HB 4097A as amended in the House and remains in support of this measure. We ask that you work the bill at your upcoming hearing on this measure and make a DO PASS recommendation in support of 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**