

February 22nd, 2018

Oregon State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court St. NE | Salem, OR 97301

Re: Multnomah County Support of HB 4097

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee

First and foremost Multnomah County wants to thank the Legislature for partnering with Multnomah County to invest in a new, safe and modern courthouse.

As part of the new courthouse, Multnomah County has worked with the circuit court and the Multnomah Law Library to make decisions about how best to serve the needs of our constituents -- many of whom come to the court without an attorney.

In the design of the new courthouse it was decided to move from a traditional law library model -- which currently occupies 1 1/2 floors in the downtown courthouse -- to a Legal Resource Center that would occupy a smaller space in the new courthouse and more closely meets the needs of Multnomah County residents who need to appear in court.

The courthouse design is final and construction is well underway. In addition, the county has had many conversations over the last three years with the current law library board, judges, and other stakeholders about the type of resource that would best meet the needs of the court and our residents. We support the creation of legal resource center and believe this could be a model for other counties.

Although we appreciate the concerns of the Multnomah Law Library to preserve parts of its collection of legal references, the county's decision has been made over a significant period of time and will not be reconsidered.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeston Black