

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Support for Proposed Amendment to SB 858

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

We, the undersigned directors of the law libraries of the University of Oregon School of Law and Lewis & Clark Law School, are writing in support of Oregon's county law libraries and the proposed amending language to SB 858. This amendment provides for a reasonable cap on the amount of appropriated county law library moneys which may be directed towards court facilitation programs, affording needed flexibility to our varied counties while preserving their law libraries and the unique role they play in the Oregon legal system.

All of our law school libraries are open to the public and legal community, providing access and materials to patrons seeking legal information and research support. Yet, as academic institutions located in two of the state's largest metropolitan areas, we are well aware of the limits in what we can provide to the residents of Oregon. The recent Barriers to Justice report from the Oregon Law Foundation highlights in stark terms the civil legal needs of low-income Oregonians, just one of the many aspects of the access to justice crisis in our state.

Oregon's county law libraries skillfully and thoughtfully provide research assistance and resources, both legal and otherwise, to Oregonians throughout the state. They have delivered innovated services on ever tighter budgets, offering a range of digital services unaffordable to most attorneys and otherwise unavailable to the public. Their impact on small and rural county communities has been a constant, even as the legal information needs of our citizens grow.

Through innovation, statewide coordination, and targeted outreach, our county law libraries are national leaders in the effort to provide meaningful access to justice. We encourage you to support the proposed amendment and enable Oregon's county law libraries to continue to play their key role in the legal information needs of our communities.

Sincerely yours,



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