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ALA American Library Association

April 24, 2019

Oregon House Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and Members of the Committee:

In its “Report on 2018 Activities,”¹ Oregon’s Joint Committee on Student Success articulates the state’s commitment to developing learners with the skills and dispositions needed to succeed in post-secondary education, in the workplace, and in society. Integral to that success is the ability to navigate an ever-shifting information landscape. We are writing, therefore, to express our strong support for HB 3263, a bill that will ensure access to school librarians, the information professionals charged with preparing learners for this task, and to effective school libraries² for all of Oregon’s learners.

Oregon’s Department of Education currently mandates a “coordinated media program”³ and incorporates school library standards⁴ into its state academic standards. Based on National School Library Standards⁵ and the Future Ready Librarians Framework,⁶ those standards provide the foundation upon which librarians offer equitable access to resources and embed a continuum of literacies across the curriculum for authentic, inquiry-based, personalized learning experiences. They align with content area and technology standards and facilitate learners’ examination of diverse perspectives and experiences; collaboration towards individual and common goals; curation of resources for personal and academic growth; reflective practices that nurture exploration and innovation; and capable and ethical use of information technologies.

More than 60 studies from across the country show that student achievement is higher—from grades and test scores to digital proficiency and graduation rates—in schools with a professionally staffed library.⁷ The good news is that many schools in Oregon already have exemplary school libraries led by librarians who deliver standards-based instruction via evidenced-based best practices. Further, the Oregon Association of School Libraries is your state-based professional organization that supports school librarians in identifying and sharing those best practices, and in offering a range of professional development that improves school libraries across the state.

HB 3263 increases accountability by clearly defining the criteria for strong school libraries and advances equity by requiring that all students have access to libraries that meet those criteria. Your vote in

¹ <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/154425>

² http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/advocacy/tools/docs/AASL_Position_Statement_Effective_SLP_2018.pdf

³ <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=145320>

⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/library/Pages/default.aspx>

⁵ <https://standards.aasl.org/>

⁶ <https://futureready.org/archived-pages/future-ready-librarians-2/>

⁷ <https://www.baltimorelibraryproject.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/09/Library-Impact-Studies.pdf>


support of HB 3263 is a commitment to Oregon’s educational, economic, and civic future: one where residents have the skills and dispositions necessary to continue learning, independently and collaboratively; to be adaptable, capable and ethical curators of information; and to be engaged and informed community members.

On behalf our members in libraries of all types, especially those in Oregon, we thank the Legislature for its efforts and we urge you to pass HB 3263 so that the promise of an Oregon education can be fully realized and so that *every student will have access to and benefit from a world-class, well-rounded, and equitable educational system.*⁸

Sincerely,



Loida Garcia-Febo, President
American Library Association



Kathryn Roots Lewis, President
American Association of School Librarians

⁸ https://www.oregon.gov/ode/about-us/Documents/Pages%20from%201170823_ODE_Strategic%20Plan%208.5x11_2016%20V7%20Values.pdf