



February 29, 2024

House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Helfrich, Vice-Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Library Association (OLA) is writing in support of [SCR 212](#), to recognize late Oregon State Senator Clifford Trow.

The Oregon Library Association has over 900 members statewide, including public, school, academic, law, and special libraries. The organization represents the interest of libraries and library staff and those they serve throughout Oregon.

During his time as an Oregon State Legislature, Senator Trow was a close ally of libraries. He helped introduce and pass legislation to support libraries across the state, including a bill that led to the State Library's Ready to Read Grant program, which supports early literacy and summer programming in public libraries throughout the state.

In the 1991 session, in his role on the Joint Interim Committee on Education, Senator Trow helped raise several concerns about the status of library service in Oregon, including: the availability of services to all people in Oregon, the status of resource sharing among libraries, and the state's role in financially assisting libraries. This resulted in a [report](#) from the Joint Interim Committee on Education Work Group on Oregon Library Services, which led to legislation in the 1993 session.

In the 1993 legislative session, Trow was essential in helping pass three pieces of legislation.

- SB20
 - Created the State Library resource sharing grant program for academic and public libraries.
 - Helped make funding for the Government Information and Library Services division of the State Library more stable by moving them from being funded through the state General Fund to being funded on assessment of other executive state agencies.
- SB22
 - Helped save annual grants to public libraries from severe cuts by shifting them from a general support grant to being grants specifically for development of early literacy skills and avoiding summer learning loss in children ages 0-14. This was the birth of the Ready to Read Grant.
- SB23
 - Removed the requirement for the State Library to loan materials free of charge to people who live in areas without free public library service. This change was made to encourage residents in those unserved areas to form local, tax-funded public libraries.

For all his work, Clifford Trow was presented OLA's Legislator of the Year award in 1992 and in 1994.



Many of Senator Trow's accomplishments continue benefiting Oregon libraries 30 years later. Oregon's 136 public libraries receive Ready to Read grants every year, with over \$800,000 distributed annually. The Government Information and Library Services division continues to provide research assistance to state executive agencies and the legislature and preserve state and federal publications for perpetual public access thanks to the stable funding it receives due to Trow's efforts.

The Oregon Library Association is happy to see Clifford Trow be honored in Senate Committee Resolution 212. Please pass this legislation this session. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy Skinner
Legislative Committee Chair
Oregon Library Association