



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Administrator's Office

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County Administrator

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March 15, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Support for Senate Bill 858

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

On behalf of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to let you know that we strongly support the provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 858 which authorizes all counties the alternative of entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the Judicial Department to provide law library services. Currently, Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 9.820 authorizes only Multnomah County, as a county containing more than 700,000 inhabitants, to contract with the Judicial Department to provide law library services. All other counties in the State are either required to provide law library services directly or are only permitted to contract with a law library association or other organization to provide law library services. By permitting all counties to contract with the Judicial Department, the counties will maintain control of the funding and the law libraries will benefit from more options to provide the most effective law library services for their communities. This is especially the case in those counties that lack the option to contract with a law library association or other organization because no appropriate organization exists in those communities.

In Jackson County, law library services are operated by the County using the funds provided by the State through fees collected by the Judicial Department. However, the funds made available to the County are becoming insufficient to continue to provide the same level of law library services available to the residents of our County as in prior fiscal years. This leaves the County with the unenviable consequence of diminishing the level of law library services to match the ongoing revenue available to operate the law library. Historically, the Jackson County law library only provides legal materials and the narrow service of a law librarian who assisted patrons in locating books and other legal resources.

However, the Judicial Department is well versed in providing services to the users of the court system. If the Judicial Department were to contract with a county to provide law library services, they would be able to provide the added value of that expertise to a law library. For example, if Jackson County were authorized to contract with the Judicial Department to operate the County's law library, the Judicial Department would be able to co-locate facilitation, mediation, and conciliation services in conjunction with the law library.

Finally, we believe that there would be newly realized efficiencies in a contract with the Judicial Department to operate the law library which would reduce the current law library's standalone operating expenses. By co-locating court facilitators with the law library, facilitators can inform self-

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represented individuals of court processes and available court forms, review State or county-approved documents, and provide information about legal services and other resources available in the community.

Again, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners strongly support Senate Bill 858 as introduced. Thank you for your time considering this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danny Jordan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Danny Jordan
County Administrator

DJ:tc/lis

cc: Board of Commissioners