

**Testimony in Support of SB 858  
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee, March 19, 2019**

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

The Oregon State Bar supports SB 858 and providing local flexibility to provide law library services in all courthouses in Oregon. In 2015 the Oregon State Bar convened the Futures Task Force to look at changes facing the legal profession and steps we all need to take in order to ensure that Oregonians' legal needs are addressed in the years to come.

One major recommendation of that task force was to improve resources for parties who use the court to address their legal needs but who are not represented by an attorney. In the task force report last summer the recommendation was made to:

***Create self-help centers in every Oregon courthouse. The Oregon State Bar and OJD should consider proposing or supporting the creation of self-help centers to assist self-navigators, including the use of dedicated and trained court staff and volunteers. The goal should be self-help centers in every court in Oregon.***

We recognize that self-represented parties are not getting the help they need. Additional steps must be taken to ensure that all Oregonians can address their legal needs.

We continue to support Multnomah County's plan to create a larger Legal Resource Center in the new downtown courthouse and support extending this option to other counties throughout the state. Preserving local planning options is key because the needs and infrastructure available in each county are different.

We look forward to continuing to work with the courts and the Legislature in improving the provision of legal services throughout Oregon and are happy to answer any questions you might have.