



SB 1506- additional information

The Records Advocate's work: The Advocate's office has fielded more than 315 requests for assistance from local and state records gatekeepers as well as requesters. The Advocate has conducted dozens of trainings of public servants from well over 60 local and state agencies. Larger trainings included the A.G.'s 2019 Public Law Conference, Oregon Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Special Districts Association of Oregon and Oregon Association of Municipal Recordors.

Quotes:

Oregon State Archivist Stephanie Clark- At the bill's Feb. 12 Senate hearing, Clark described the difference she's seen in how Oregonians' records law is applied around the state based on the Advocate's work:

"I can personally tell you that during the last two years, with an advocate in place, I have seen leaps and bounds and improvement in consistency and efficiency, because of the training and the one-on-one assistance provided ... let me assure you that this work has made a positive impact in both the lives of government employees and requestors."

Special Districts Association of Oregon lobbyist Mark Landauer- Landauer testified on Feb. 12 that the original bill concept was written by Association of Oregon Counties lobbyist Rob Bovett based on the OLCC and Oregon Government Ethics Commission. **"It's not an unfamiliar type of model in creating an independent body."**

On the importance of independence: **"We have to hire a new permanent public records advocate, and I think that this bill is really important to that, because, again, if candidates feel that there could be undue influence in their ability to do their job, we may very well narrow the list of candidates who would be willing to apply. So I think that moving this bill ... will be really helpful to us in attracting top quality individuals after the experience we've had ... Both special districts and the Association of Oregon Counties support the underlying bill."**

The Advocate's training is **"really critical for our local governments to be able to understand and work with the public records in a manner that's transparent and available to all."**

On the Advocate's advisory council: **"I've found that this council has been extraordinarily balanced. The views of both the press, the state, the public, local government are all heard equally. And I think we have really good discussions and we're really gaining not only trust but understanding of each other's concerns and positions. And I really think that that has been a very positive step forward in looking at many of the issues that are before us."**

Excerpts of emails to Advocate's office obtained via public records request:

Donald Erickson, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Human Services:

"I was fortunate to be able to attend your recent presentation to the Department of Human Services. I can't tell you how useful your presentation was and how important this information is for our organization."

Michelle Whitney Dodson, Records Officer, state Department of Corrections:

"It has been a pleasure working with you. You have done a wonderful job educating and defining who the Records Advocate is and how the role can assist both the requester and the government body to resolve issues. In our recent training, you made the information relatable to the work we do. The Legal Information Officers were appreciative of the time you took to come speak with us and valued the information you shared.

"I want to personally thank you for how you managed mediation on issues that were brought to your attention. I appreciated your willingness to listen and learn about our processes and work environment. Your support of us working with requesters directly to resolve their concerns was invaluable to assist us in continuing to develop good working relationships with requesters.

Karen M. Spoons, City Records, City of Medford:

Ginger, I will miss your vast knowledge and assistance to me and our staff at the City of Medford. I thoroughly enjoyed your classes. I truly wish that you were not leaving but I understand. Keep in touch with OAMR as you have many, many friends.