



## LINN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

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Amber P. Boedigheimer, Law Librarian

Public Safety Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Sollman, Chair Smith, and Members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee:

RE: SB 5512

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Linn County Law Library, located in Albany, Oregon in support of increased funding that plays an important part in the vital services that law libraries play in all counties. Over the last 12 years, there has been a freeze in the amount of funding that the state has provided to support law library services, while the costs to do our work has not stayed the same.

One of the missions of law libraries is to serve everyone regardless of income, legal topic, or local, state, or federal issue. Services provided by law libraries that support this mission includes:

- Providing computer and internet access for patrons who don't own a computer, laptop, or other means of retrieving, printing, and saving information
- Providing avenues for information access
- Supporting the public by offering information free of charge and ensuring equal access to justice

Over the past several years, the funds provided by the State of Oregon have NOT been sufficient enough to cover the rising costs of salaries, benefits, additional help, and the like. Those increases reflect a need for \$10,319,000. While subscription costs continue to increase, libraries continue to struggle to keep their collections updated. Many librarians have been forced to cancel subscriptions that are/were available to the public free of charge, thus reducing the tools and resources that libraries can provide to the public.

This request from the Oregon Judicial Department is a step in the right direction to meeting the long-term sustainable budgets that will keep our doors open and our services accessible to vulnerable Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration. Please maintain the additional funding for county law libraries in the final budget.

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