

Submitter: Francine Boulosa
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4072

I support of HB4072. Salem's budget needs additional funds to continue emergency services. The Library can be viewed as an essential and emergency service: providing warming and cooling sites; connecting residents to resources for their safety and well being; connecting diverse people through its programming and outreach.

There are over 30,000 visitors monthly to the library. The FY23 Library Budget is for \$6.06million yet the dollar value of the borrowing, digital downloads, computer and meeting room utilization is estimated at three times that amount.

I have served on the Salem Public Library Advisory Board since 2018. This January there was reduction of service hours of 27% at the Main Library and 40% at the West Salem Branch. The library is now closed on Sundays and Mondays. The Salem City Council Agenda item will consider the removal of 7 frozen library staff positions from the FY24 budget. I hope the additional funding provided by HB4072 will enable the City to restore library in person access to seven days a week.