



February 23, 2017

Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair  
House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Dear Chairman Reardon,

The Oregon Library Association supports HB 2729, an appropriations bill that continues the Higher Education Coordinating Committee's (HECC) work with public community colleges and universities to support the analysis, evaluation, and creation of open educational resources (OER).

Open Educational Resources are one way that we can support students who increasingly carry financial burdens of attending college. These resources include textbooks and course packets created by faculty and are freely available to students and others to use. When faculty assign OER instead of traditionally copyrighted textbooks, students save an average of \$100 per course.\* Further, creating the resources is a one-time expense while the student savings are ongoing. OERs are a wise use of financial resources that leverages the ability to share educational materials among schools all over the world.

Academic libraries in Oregon are partners with HECC in providing students access to OERs, as well as supporting faculty members in the creation of and publishing of OERs. The Oregon Library Association supports continued funding of this project as one strategy to reduce the cost of higher education for students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elsa Loftis", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Elsa Loftis  
President, Oregon Library Association

\*Source: Is the average cost of a textbook \$100? Open Oregon Educational Resources  
<http://openoregon.org/is-the-average-cost-of-a-textbook-100/>