

May 28, 2022

Dear Senator Wyden,

As Presidents of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) and its Academic Division, we are writing to respectfully request your support for protecting Sec. 2527(b) of the Senate language from the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260 / H.R.4521) during conference negotiations. We strongly support the Senate language, which would ensure that taxpayers have timely, free access to the results of publicly-funded research.

The OLA is a professional organization of Oregon library workers, and our Academic Division is made up of academic library workers. It is also a chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries and represents 112 library workers at community colleges, colleges, and universities across Oregon.

Sec. 2527(b) of the Senate bill would codify President Obama's 2013 Memorandum on Increasing Public Access to Federally Funded Scientific Research, which has also remained in effect during the Trump and Biden Administrations. Academic libraries have played key roles in supporting faculty researchers' implementation of this policy.

Preserving this policy will enable our libraries to ensure that students and faculty have access to cutting-edge research that will create new innovations, jobs, and medical advances right here in Oregon .

In addition, the policy helps level the playing field by improving access for smaller institutions, community colleges, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Finally, at a time of rising costs for higher education, this policy must be protected as a needed step to address affordability.

Thank you for your support of research and higher education in Oregon . As the houses work to resolve their differences on this legislation, we ask for your continued support to carry forward Sec. 2527(b) of the Senate language.

Sincerely,



Arlene Weible
Oregon Library Association President, 2021-22
olapresident@olaweb.org



Emily Ford

Academic Division, Oregon Library Association, President, 2021-22
acrlor@olaweb.org