



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

Luis A. Alejo, District 1
Glenn Church, District 2
Chris M. Lopez, Chair, District 3
Wendy Root Askew, Vice Chair, District 4
Kate Daniels, District 5

Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Gregg Hart
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 6230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1185 (Hart) California Library Services, Equity in Opportunity Act – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Hart:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing to respectfully oppose your measure AB 1185.

This bill would rename the California Library Services Act (CLSA) to the California Library Services, Equity in Opportunity Act, would reduce the size of the Board, and remove the authority of the Board, making them advisory only to the California State Librarian for allocation of all State funding under the CLSA. It is vague as to the role and position of the current library cooperatives, and appears to remove the geographic contiguity requirement in existing law which jeopardizes local coordination and efficiency, ensuring that small and rural jurisdictions are not left out of this funding.

Monterey County Free Libraries operates seventeen branch libraries, three bookmobiles, a library by mail program, and several special programs, including student support, family literacy, and workforce readiness. Free library services are provided to all residents of the state of California, and we work closely with our geographic neighbors through CLSA supported cooperatives and resource sharing. Library cooperatives in Monterey County mean that our libraries and neighboring communities can work together more effectively, allowing for easier sharing of resources, coordinated services, and better accessibility for patrons. By working together, libraries can share the costs of services, and the current structure of the California Library Services Act provides essential support. Both funding and structure should be maintained with the CLSA to ensure that small and rural jurisdictions are included, operations are efficient, and public libraries can continue to help everyone thrive.

Given these concerns, the County of Monterey opposes AB 1185. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)



WWW.CO.MONTEREY.CA.US