



## **HB 2654 & SB 344 Social Media Privacy**

**March 2013**

### **OLA's POSITION**

The Oregon Library Association supports individual's right to privacy.

### **BACKGROUND**

HB 2654 and SB 344 would prohibit employers from requiring access to an employee or prospective employee's social media accounts. These social media privacy acts are preventive measures that would provide protection to all employees in Oregon. As social media is increasingly a major means of communication, libraries and librarians should be aware of the potential for some to use it to intrude on the private lives of people.

Libraries and librarians are engaging in [digital literacy](#) initiatives, of which social media education and privacy are a part. Digital literacy is "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information requiring both cognitive and technical skills" (American Library Association). We are increasingly aware of how technology is changing libraries, the services we provide and the issue we address.

Privacy remains an important component of free expression – a core value of the library profession. As such, OLA attempts to be aware of potential abuses to social media privacy, and support legislation preventing it.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

OLA support HB 2654 and SB 344 as it protects library employees and their privacy. As employers, we affirm our employees right to privacy. As providers of physical and virtual spaces, we affirm the right of our users to their privacy. OLA supports legislation that allows for ethical information practices both by employers and the public at large.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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