



March 31, 2016

Richard T. Cassidy
President
Uniform Law Commission
111 N. Wabash Ave, Suite 1010
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Support for the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act

Dear Mr. Cassidy:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), I am writing to express strong support for the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA), which establishes an outcomes-based, technology-neutral approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and will be permanently available to the public in unaltered form.

As states increasingly realize the benefits of technology to promote accountability, transparency, and public participation by expanding online access to legal materials, it has become clear states must also take steps to ensure that the information is reliable and accurate. UELMA provides a framework to help the states ensure that online legal materials provide the same level of trustworthiness traditionally associated only with print publication.

As AALL's observer to the Uniform Law Commission's UELMA drafting committee, I had a front row seat at the thoughtful discussions among stakeholders about the opportunities and challenges raised by access to electronic legal materials.

Since its approval by the Uniform Law Commission in 2011, AALL members have strongly advocated in support of UELMA's adoption. We are pleased that 12 states – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Pennsylvania – have adopted the Act to date.

AALL commends the drafting committee for developing a flexible solution to meet states' needs. We have members throughout the country who would be happy to join any efforts you make to ensure that the Act is passed in as many states as possible. UELMA will ensure that users of online legal information will have permanent access to the authentic legal information they require. The act supports an active citizenry in a strong democracy.

Sincerely,

Keith Ann Stiverson, 2015-2016 President

cc: Liza I. Karsai, Executive Director, ULC
Katie Robinson, Legislative Program Director, ULC
Brian Lewis, Legislative Counsel, ULC
Michele L. Timmons, Chair, UELMA Drafting Committee