April 28, 2014

Illinois State Legislature
House Judiciary Committee

RE: Support for SB 1941

House Judiciary Chair Nekritz, Vice Chair Williams, Republican Spokesperson Sandack and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL) in support of SB 1941, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to approve the bill, which will provide assurance in Illinois that online state legal material will be preserved for the future and available to the public in unaltered form.

SB 1941 addresses the urgent problem, indentified in several AALL studies, that more and more states are eliminating their print legal resources in favor of online-only, without assuring trustworthiness and preservation. This bill will ensure that when online legal material is designated as the official version, a framework will be in place to provide for preservation and permanent public access.

CALL was formed as a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) in 1947. It is a non-profit organization comprised of more than 300 law librarians and other information professionals from more than 100 institutions in the Chicago area. Members serve the legal information needs of law firms, law schools, courts, state and federal agencies, county law libraries, and other institutions. AALL serves nearly 5,000 members in law libraries at more than 1,600 entities nationwide.

It is vital to the citizens of Illinois as well as the legal community in our state that official online legal material be preserved and that we help ensure the accuracy of what the user finds online. UELMA helps to provide a method for doing so. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 1941.

Sincerely,

Maribel Nash
President