Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charlotte Henderson and I am here today on behalf of the Arizona Association of Law Libraries to testify in support of SB1414, adding the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, UELMA, to Arizona Revised Statutes.

The Arizona Association of Law Libraries, AzALL, represents a diverse membership of librarians from law firms, law schools, as well as state, court and county law libraries throughout Arizona. The Arizona Association is also a Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, which was founded in 1906 to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to legal and public communities, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information. AALL strongly supports the adoption of UELMA.

Print resources are fairly easy to authenticate. Governments either publish their own books or nominate a specific publisher to publish the “official” source of the law. These official print sources are generally considered to be authentic due to their enduring and unchangeable nature. However, online resources do not have the same attributes.

Citizens may not be able to get to a physical library for a variety of reasons. Not all libraries hold primary legal resources in their print collections. If they do have primary law resources, they are generally non-circulating. As library spaces evolve into hybrid collections for the 21st-century, access to legal information in formats that will transition as technology evolves only makes sense.

SB1414 ensures that online legal material is guaranteed the same level of authority traditionally provided by print publications. This bill will ensure that anyone - whether a citizen, judge, legislator, attorney or researcher - will be able to verify as authentic the state legal material available to them online.

Governor Ducey has the following posted on his home page -

My administration is a 21st-century administration, and we’re going to embrace 21st-century ingenuity.

The Arizona Association of Law Libraries strongly urges you to support SB1414. By adopting UELMA, Arizona will follow Governor Ducey’s direction to embrace 21st century ingenuity, and establish Arizona as a leader among states that have recognized that official, electronic legal material must be authenticated, preserved and made permanently available to the public.
Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Charlotte Graesser Henderson  
Board Member, Secretary, Past-President  
Arizona Association of Law Libraries