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ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

File Item # 47

LEAGUE OF CITIES OPPOSITION TO AB 438 (WILLIAMS) As Amended June 1

AB 438 Ties the Hands of Local Governments Cities have traditionally decided what is best for their communities. It's what locally elected officials are elected to do. The ability to contract for services helps cities provide the best service at the best price, which is absolutely critical today given shrinking resources available to local governments. When local government officials contract for library services, they are doing their best to keep the Library open. AB 438 undermines this effort by dictating how and when they can contract for a service.

Amendments will likely result in Library closures Because the vast majority of cities that have contracted for library services have done so because of severe financial distress, putting STATE MANDATES on contracts make it more likely that the city will not have enough flexibility to retain the library at all.

New Precedent for Cities AB 438 for the first time will dictate the details of a contract between a city and a private entity. As cities continue to grapple with the state's fiscal crisis, cities are being asked to provide the same level of services for less money. Tying the hands of local government does not help a city retain services, and instead makes it significantly harder to continue to provide basic community services.

Role of a City Council Just as State Elected Officials are elected to make decisions on behalf of constituents, so are locally elected officials. We believe administrative decisions like contracting for library services to save a local library are exactly the type of decision locally elected officials are elected to make. AB 438 does nothing to help a city and only undermines their ability to keep libraries open.