



March 27, 2019

To: To Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

Re: HB 5024

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I present this letter on behalf of 16 Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) that provide low-to-no cost community dispute resolution services and educational trainings in 24 Oregon counties.

Community dispute resolution services reduce negative or violent responses to conflict in families, neighborhoods, and communities. Mediation and facilitation services are offered to meet the needs of the community and include case types such as neighbor-to-neighbor, landlord-tenant, parent-teen, small claims, home foreclosure avoidance, and manufactured home communities. Innovative programs such as truancy mediation, restorative justice in schools and homeless placement programs help Oregon communities to reduce the school to prison pipeline, stabilize housing, and increase safety. These programs, as well as court connected services, resolve conflict at a local level and allow for the courts to save resources for the cases in their dockets.

Per their contract with the University of Oregon, CDRCs are required to match every state dollar they receive from OOCDR—meaning that, at a minimum, Oregon communities double the dollars that the state invests. Pro bono mediators and administrative professionals invest their own time to contribute more than 17,000 hours of service each biennium (valued at \$1.01 million dollars). The CDRCs create partnerships to expand service reach and meet the needs of their communities. For example, Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center is the only Oregon entity selected to provide USDA Farm bill mediations in all 36 Oregon counties. Eastern Oregon Mediation Center partners with Oregon's Manufactured Communities Resource Center to provide mediations in manufactured housing communities in six Eastern Oregon counties. Both of these partnerships would not be possible without the base level funding provided by the legislature.

During the 2015-17 biennium, CDRCs mediated 16,517 cases that impacted at least 60,755 Oregon community members. Additionally, more than 36,497 Oregon community members received conflict resolution training to improve their ability to reduce destructive behaviors in families, schools, and our civic communities. Survey respondents in community cases consistently report an 89% satisfaction rate with the process, regardless of the outcome. If mediation had not been available, more than 50% of survey respondents report that they would have filed in court, 28% percent report that they would have stayed in or ignored the conflict, and the remainder would have involved police or sought counseling.

I urge you ask the legislature to support Oregon's capacity for resolving dispute at a local, community level by continuing base funding for community dispute resolution education and direct services.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Sponsler, MPA



Mayor
Scott Harden

Council President
Patricia Smith

Councilors
Bruce Nissen

John Miner

March 19, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

The City of Wood Village has been an active participant and beneficiary of the East Metro Mediation program since 2000. The City participates by contributing annually to the program's funding, and by serving on the program's board.

The East Metro Mediation program helps serve the citizens of Wood Village by providing free resources to residents who have a dispute or conflict. The City refers residents to the program mainly for neighborhood disputes, and landlord/tenant issues that City codes do not cover. The East Metro Mediation program also conducts several workshops a year that teach dispute resolution techniques which our residents attend and benefit from.

The program is a valuable resource for not just our community, but for the surrounding cities as well. The East Metro Mediation program is a high-quality program with a 90% success rate, and it is our hope that you will continue to provide funding for the program. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William A. Peterson Jr.
City Manager



HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE FOR **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

March 14, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

As a community leader who believes and strives for strong community partnerships and collective impact, I am pleased to support the Hillsboro Mediation Program as well as all the Community Dispute Resolution Centers around the State of Oregon.

Over the years, the Hillsboro Mediation Program has been an important factor in providing conflict resolution services to the residents of Hillsboro and Western Washington County. Beginning its 23rd year of service, the program continues to provide a resource for successful outcomes in the community for neighbor to neighbor conflicts, business and consumer conflicts, and families of youth dealing *with* runaway problems. The program has been instrumental in providing conflict resolution education to City of Hillsboro employees and citizens of our community.

Furthermore, the Hillsboro Mediation Program continues to attract dedicated volunteers who make themselves available to go through intensive conflict resolution and mediation training, in order to provide appropriate mediation services to our residents. In recent years there has been an increased need for this type of community service to be delivered in Spanish language, and in a culturally relevant manner. The Hillsboro Mediation Program continues to promote the services and provide training opportunities, with the goal of creating a safer culture and climate for everyone.

I urge you to continue funding the Hillsboro Mediation Program so they may expand their services to the citizens of Western Washington County.

Sincerely

Olga Acuña
Director of Federal Programs
Hillsboro School District

Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence

3083 NE 49th Place, AC 202, Hillsboro, OR 97124-6008
TEL: 503-844-1500 ■ FAX: 503-844-1782 ■ WEB: www.hsd.k12.or.us



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

511 Washington St., Ste.102 • The Dalles, OR 97058
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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

March 14, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

This Letter is to strongly recommend that Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center along with the 16 other dispute resolution centers across the state, be fully funded. The Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center has served our communities for many years now, and during that time, has proven to be a valuable resource for conflict resolutions.

The staff members of Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center have been very helpful in stream lining the referral process for disputes.

It is my experience that Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center has provided a much-needed alternative to court adjudication for the citizens of Wasco County. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to continue to utilize them in dispute resolution needs, and that Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center will be awarded this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lane Magill".

Lane Magill

Wasco County Sheriff



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
For Josephine County

500 NW 6th Street-Dept 17
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
(541) 476-2309
Fax: (541) 471-2079

Trina A. Swaja
Trial Court Administrator

E-mail:
Trina.A.Swaja@ojd.state.or.us

March 27, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

Josephine County Circuit Court staff work very closely with Resolve volunteers and staff to provide small claims mediation services on a weekly basis. Due to the nature of our work, we have high expectations of competency and professionalism. I can say without hesitation that we are grateful for the exceptional performance of their volunteers and staff.

The service provided by Resolve saves the court valuable judicial resources, as well as providing a timelier resolution for litigants. It is truly a win-win outcome for both the court and the litigants.

We are pleased with the past and current relationship between the Circuit Court and Resolve and look forward to continuing our partnership into the future.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Trina A. Swaja
Trial Court Administrator

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

March 21, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

I am an attorney with the Oregon Law Center/Lane County Legal Aid, and have been for over forty years. I have focused my work on civil matters affecting low income Oregonians, especially tenant advocacy and affordable housing.

I write to support the budget request for the Community Dispute Resolution Centers.

I was trained as a mediator in the early 1980s, and helped form and incorporate the Eugene CDRC. My legal aid program used mediation for many years to resolve disputes between landlords and tenants. My work over the past twenty years has included a focus on manufactured dwelling park tenancies, largely through the Manufactured Housing Landlord/Tenant Coalition; the Coalition's 2019 bill, SB 586 and pending amendments, will call for increased use of mediation through local CDRCs, statewide, to resolve disputes between MH park (and, for the first time, floating home marina) tenants and their landlords.

I believe that mediation is an effective and positive method to resolve disputes, without resort to often destructive litigation. I believe that the CDRCs are a good use of public funds.

John VanLandingham, Attorney at Law

Oregon Law Center/Lane County Legal Aid

376 East 11th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401

541-285-8445 (c); johnvl@oregonlawcenter.org



March 14, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

Mediation Case Manager (MCM) has been the program manager for the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance (OFA) Program since 2013. MCM has had the pleasure of partnering with the Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) and during this time, the CDRCs have held 16,000 conferences for homes facing foreclosure in the State of Oregon.

For MCM, it was important that we partner with a network of organizations we could trust to take on a new project representing their local communities and working toward the goal of reducing the number of foreclosures in Oregon. They worked tirelessly to help us create a viable process and have added meaningful suggestions every step of the way. The CDRCs have exceeded every expectation as a partner and continues to do a wonderful job.

The community dispute resolution centers in Oregon have been a crucial piece of the infrastructure of this program because they were able to get their mediators and staff prepared immediately. Without centers like theirs, a state program as effective and successful as the OFA Program would not be possible. They each have a courteous and knowledgeable staff that performs the duties of their contract with professionalism and efficiency.

We hope to continue this partnership and thank you for your consideration in continuing their base funding for community dispute resolution services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay Foster", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jay Foster, President
Mediation Case Manager

Oregon Park Managers Association

3220 Crescent Ave. Sp. 103

Eugene, OR 97408

Ph. 541-915-5680

Email mike@oregonparkmanagers.net

Website: oregonparkmanagers.net

March 22, 2019

Senators Susan McLain and Lew Frederick
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR. 97301

Re: Funding of Community Dispute Resolution Centers

Greetings Senators and Committee Members:

Since 2006 our organization has provided a State required continuing education class to the owners and managers of manufactured home parks. At least one person involved in the management of a manufactured home park must take our class, or a class provided by one of the other two authorized instructors, every two years. The class provides four hours of instruction on Oregon landlord/tenant law, federal fair housing law and park management.

Our organization trains nearly 500 of the 1,100 manufactured home parks in Oregon and provides continuing advice to the operators of those parks. We teach in Gresham, Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, White City (Medford), Klamath Falls, Ontario and Pendleton; 25 classes on a two-year cycle. More than half of the training and advice we provide involves how to deal with disputes between landlords and tenants, and often, disputes between two tenants.

When we began our training program in 2006, the Manufactured Communities Resource Center (MCRC), a division of the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services, had four employees. Two of those employees were dedicated to resolution of disputes in manufactured home parks. The best thing I can say about that method of handling disputes is that it was ineffective. I used to ask during my classes whether the owners and managers had ever had a State employee come to their park to assist in resolving a dispute. Rarely, one hand was raised, and even in those cases, the "assistance" was not helpful.

In about 2009, MCRC reduced staff to two persons, eliminating the two dispute resolution positions. MCRC began contracting with Community Dispute Resolution Centers and paying them to assist park owners in managers in solving problems between people. Manufactured home parks are low-cost housing, and by their very nature, draw tenants who tend to have far more issues getting along with others than then the ordinary cross-section of the population.

Since MCRC began contracting with CDRC I have observed substantial improvement in dispute resolution in parks, and in park operators' capability of dealing with problems that arise between people in this low-cost housing environment. Please continue funding for this program that is working well to improve the living environment for people who truly deserve the help.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Whitty, Director

March 22, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for continued funding of Community Dispute Resolution

To: Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

I write in support of continued base funding of Community Dispute Resolution Centers. I have been a manufactured home owner since 1999. I joined OSTA five years ago and became a board member and area director four years ago.

I live on a modest income in Multnomah County. After experiencing some park issues, I consulted with MH-OSTA to gain information and knowledge on how to handle the problems we were having. I had the opportunity to mediate a personal issue through East Metro Mediation. Living on a modest income I cannot afford the expense of arbitration or litigation. Seeing the power of mediation in action, and the importance of having the parties communicate and come to their own resolution made a profound impact on me.

This impact led me to take East Metro Mediation's Basic Mediator class, which I completed in March of 2018, and I am now a volunteer mediator through the center. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to mediate a number of community mediations. I have also attended continuing education in-services on Landlord/Tenant Mediations and Elder Mediations at the Beaverton and Hillsboro Centers. I have spoken at a number of community outreach advocacy groups to promote conflict resolution and mediation as a way to get parties to communicate with each other to resolve their issues.

I have only touched on the "magic" of mediation and the positive impact it has on the parties, i.e, the self-empowerment and sense of accomplishment the parties feel when THEY resolve their issues instead of having decisions made for them.

I ask that you continue funding community dispute resolution services and education so that all Oregonians can have the opportunity to learn better ways of positive communication.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Nancy Inglehart
Manufactured Home Owner, Gresham, OR
Executive Board member MH-OSTA (Manufactured Housing-Oregon State Tenants Association)
Mediator, East Metro Mediation (Community Dispute Resolution Center)

March 24, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members
Re: HB 5024

With budgets being so tight these days it is indeed encouraging to know that there is an effective, excellent and cost effective community peace making tool right where I live. I am writing to express my thanks and gratitude for the past support of the Center for Mediation and Dialogue (CMD) here in Beaverton, and I ask you to please continue funding community Dispute Resolution.

I've had the pleasure to use several services of the Beaverton CMD. Once, because I had a mediation session with my neighbor about her "barking dogs." And the other: I attended the free classes offered by CMD at the Library on the topics of Understanding the Nature of Conflict, Building Emotional Intelligence and Practicing Conflict Competence.

The skills and expertise of everyone I have come into contact with, be they volunteers or staff in the CMD are outstanding. Because of the success of my Barking Dog mediation session, I enrolled and became a volunteer mediator for several years and I continue to use these skills and methods in my daily life as well. I am beyond grateful for the expertise here in Beaverton that supports the peaceful resolutions of community conflicts.

The training series I attended were inspiring and there were pivotal moments that occurred. One attendee made peace with her sister. She and her sister had not had a civil conversation in over 60 years. What better testimony to teaching peace making than that. In closing, I believe that mediation skills are essential life skills!

Please continue to fund the Center for Mediation and Dialogue here in Beaverton.

Sincerely,



Kathy Dee Zasloff



Center for Mediation and Dialogue

March 22, 2019

Re: HB 5024

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Lew Fredrick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

The Beaverton Center for Mediation and Dialogue (CMD,) a Mayor's Office program since 1988, offers mediation, facilitation, and restorative justice and conflict resolution education to residents in Washington County and surrounding communities. During the last 30 years, volunteers and staff of the CMD have contributed more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service through more than 8,300 cases. In the last ten years, more than 13,550 people have attended workshops or training in conflict resolution skills. In this past year, the center has managed over 450 cases ranging from helping homeowners avoid foreclosure to helping crime victims and youth offenders address harm together in a safe and constructive facilitated dialogue.

One notable program is Second Home, a partnership program with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Beaverton School District. Second Home matches and supports homeless high school students with volunteer home providers who live together while the student finishes high school. Mediators from the CMD facilitate a discussion around rental contract, house rules, and hopes and expectations, and then provide ongoing mediation support for issues that may come up over time. Second Home is a unique host-home program because of the partnership with community dispute resolution centers to provide conflict resolution and communication support to the participants. The program's success is reflected by the fact that the model has now been replicated in Gresham, Lincoln County with plans to expand to Clackamas and Forest Grove.

It is my sincere hope that the committee recognize the important value community dispute resolution centers offer the community in building conflict resolution skills, improving relationships, and increasing peace and safety for all. As a former participant noted *"conflict resolution skills are crucial life skills – I have improved my personal and professional relationships and finally resolved a situation with my neighbor after avoiding it for three years. I am sincerely grateful for this program and it's mission to help build peace in our community."*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carley Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carley Adams

Program Manager

Center for Mediation and Dialogue

[RESOLUTIONS] NORTHWEST

We facilitate honest dialogue to resolve conflict and advance racial and social justice.

March 26, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

Resolutions Northwest (RNW) is a portland-based nonprofit organization founded in 1984. Our mission is to *facilitate honest dialogue to advance racial and social justice*. We are a member organization of Resolutions Oregon, a coalition of Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRC) that receives funding from the state of Oregon to provide cost-effective and creative solutions to conflict.

RNW has been providing dispute resolution and restorative justice services in the Portland Metro Area for the past 30 years. In 2014 RNW merged with "Uniting to Understand Racism", realigning the organization's mission and strategy to incorporate an intentional racial and social justice lens to all programming and community impacts. Each RNW program area - facilitation, mediation, restorative justice, training, and organizational consulting - is infused with a structural racism analysis and serves a diverse collection of people throughout the city.

In 2018 we facilitated 1,086 cases, serving 8,516 people, in facilitation, restorative justice and mediation programs, trained close to 3,644 people, and utilized 53 volunteers dedicating 1,859 hours to the community.

One example of how we have transformed our program and service delivery with a racial justice framework lies in our mediation program. For 17 years, RNW has provided mediation services and intensive trainings for mediation volunteers. In 2018 we created Mediators of Color Cohort for people engaged in community of color organizations. We redesigned our training to offer more explicit tools for understanding the impact of mediators' and parties identities on the process; balancing power dynamics; and centering those most impacted by racial and social oppression. Our growth in this area continues very actively, and we are currently advising the statewide mediation association to introduce a robust focus on racial and social justice into their training requirements for new mediators.

"We recently used RNW's services... We only met a couple of times, but [our mediator] really went the extra mile. She continued to try to find a way to bring resolve to any piece of the situation that might be possible. My experiences have shown me that this level of care and commitment in the professional world is unusual." – RNW Mediation Client

I want to thank the committee for ongoing financial support of dispute resolution education and services. The funding has been foundational for RNW, creating individual and collective impact in the Portland Metro Area. I urge you to continue funding community dispute resolution funding to support improved conflict resolution and communication skills for all Oregon's community members.

Sincerely,

Christina Albo
Executive Director



Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice

March 2019

To Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice is one of sixteen centers for dispute resolution serving the state of Oregon. Resolve provides mediation and restorative justice for the residents of southern Oregon to help people resolve conflict and to build and repair human relationship and community.

Resolve works in partnership with our courts, schools and municipalities. We are “bending the cost curve” by relieving over-burdened courts in Jackson and Josephine County by providing small claims and FED mediation.

Resolve helps our schools implement and utilize restorative justice practices that lower rates of suspension and absenteeism by creating a culture of accountability and belonging. This supportive environment helps kids stay in school, make it to graduation, and become contributors to Oregon’s economy.

Restorative justice aligns with trauma informed practices by offering an alternative to punitive, exclusionary discipline, and by lowering the rate of disparate discipline meted out to students of color, disability and difference. A more just and fair educational environment feels safe for all.

Resolve’s work also impacts the school-to-prison pipeline through our partnership with juvenile justice. The long term cost savings through reduced incarceration and criminal thinking and behavior cannot be overstated.

As a nonprofit, Resolve can leverage contributed dollars alongside contracted dollars from the State and Federal Government. We are part of the United Way of Jackson County and can receive private foundation dollars. Currently, Resolve maintains a modest contracted level of funding with each of our partners: judicial, juvenile justice and education. These revenue sources combine to support a staff of nine and between 35 and 40 volunteers.

Criminal recidivism, unresolved conflict, in-attention to human relationship and the bonds of community, all have costly outcomes. Through our services and training, Resolve provides both short term and long term positive returns for the well-being of Oregon communities and the economy.

Deltra Ferguson, PhD
Executive Director



March 20, 2019

Co-Chairs Sen. Johnson,
Sen. Steiner Hayward,
Rep. Rayfield and
committee members

RE: HB 5024

Greetings. As the director of Neighbor to Neighbor Mediation, a center for dispute resolution serving Marion, Linn and Benton counties I have the distinct pleasure of seeing mediation in action and its rewarding results.

Neighbor to Neighbor has a robust restorative justice program that includes both adult and Juvenile Victim-Offender conferences with mediators specifically trained in Victim-Offender dialogue. Restorative justice is an approach to justice that focuses more on the harm done than the law broken. It is an evidence-based program that is proven to reduce recidivism, increase restitution completion, increase the length of time before re-offending and gives victims a greater voice in their process of healing.

Additionally, Neighbor to Neighbor provides conflict resolution services under these programs:

- Manufactured Home parks (Marion, Benton & Linn) under contract with Oregon Housing
- Small Claims Court (Linn and Benton) gives the plaintiff and respondent an opportunity to talk and reach an agreement that is better suited to their dispute.
- Community Mediation helps people of all walks solve disputes in family, neighborhoods, businesses, employee – employer relationships,
- Administration of the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program (Marion, Benton, Linn, Polk, Lincoln and Yamhill)
- Parent Teen Mediation. Currently we are working with the youth shelters, Jackson Street and Taylor's House to help mediate and decrease the homeless youth population in all three counties.
- Training of new mediators as well as continuing education and advanced practices and fields.

We utilize the expertise of more than 65 unpaid mediators. Most of our mediators have more than 100 hours of training and experience to provide free, confidential, professional services to our communities in three counties. Last year we worked on bringing peaceful resolution to nearly 600 cases.

Dispute resolution is a vital part of making our state a great place to live and work. Please continue to support funding dispute resolution education and services for your communities.

Sincerely,

Heather Wright
Executive Director



March 23, 2019

RE: HB5024

Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, Representative Rayfield and committee members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center (DRC). Six Rivers is a 501c3 charitable organization serving the residents of the 5 county region of North Central Oregon. Six Rivers receives funding to support the non-violent resolution of conflicts between people of all types. Founded in 2002, we serve an average of 450 people per year through mediation, facilitation, workshops and customized trainings. Our primary service is first responder in interpersonal conflicts that threaten to tear families and communities apart.

We leverage our state funding on a 1:5 ratio by raising local funds and even federal grants to customize our services to the rural and sophisticated character of our region. Over the past 17 years we have helped our residents find common ground on issues of Land Use, Rural Medical services, Wildfire Urban Interface Zones, Affordable housing, Health Insurance and childcare planning for population growth. This year, conflict is rising and the statewide association of 16 CDRCs across the state, is stepping up to provide that needed level of service. We have seen a 25% increase in caseload in the past 8 months alone.

We have developed partnerships with CDRC's in other parts of the state to leverage opportunities for mediator training, logistical support in large group facilitations and building solutions to issues such as Mediation for Co-existence between farms when Genetically Modified Crops are involved.

Please support the budget request of the Oregon Office of Dispute Resolution ensuring residents of Oregon State have access to affordable and effective dispute resolution services.

Particularly in rural Oregon, resources for solving complex and personal challenges are limited. Efficiency is essential so people can get back to family and work. And accessibility to sophisticated solutions is paramount as our world keeps getting more layered. The small budget for this program belies its importance. The Community Dispute Resolution Centers provide a great "bang for the buck." We need your continued support. Oregonians need your support of this important work. Rural residents, farmers and other members of the agricultural community throughout the state need your support for this important community based work.

Thank you for your time and public service,
Sincerely,

Marti Dane
Executive Director

Local Agencies we have assisted in Senator Thompsen's district in 2018-19: Columbia Gorge Health Council, School Districts, Hood River and Wasco Counties, City of Hood River and the City of The Dalles Municipal Court, Providence Hood River Hospital, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission, Opportunity Connections, Gorge Co-Housing, and the Center for Living

Eastern Oregon Mediation Center
1007 4th Street (physical)
1109 K Avenue (mail)
La Grande, Oregon 97850
(541) 786-0270



March 22, 2019

Re: HB 5024

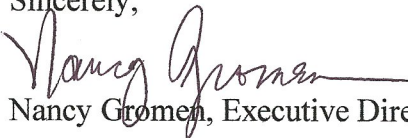
Eastern Oregon Mediation Center (EOMC) is a community dispute resolution center that provides a spectrum of services to residents of Union County and we leverage these state dollars to expand our reach to the neighboring counties of Baker, Wallowa, and Umatilla, however, we are the only dispute resolution center in all of Eastern Oregon. The funds received through this grant provide base operational support and allow us to better service contracts such as with the Oregon Judicial Department to provide small claims mediations and the Manufactured Communities Resource Center to provide mediation services for manufactured parks in our area. Without this funding, we would not be able to provide civil assist services to our local law enforcement.

We offer dispute resolution services to residents, Union County Juvenile Department, Union County Sheriff's office, La Grande Police Department, and the La Grande School District. We provide community mediation service which may involve landlord/tenants, parent/teens, neighbor to neighbor disputes, and many other types of disputes. We also offer conflict coaching to provide residents with good choices when mediation is not an option.

With the funds received we are able to help low income and no income residents with a chance of living in a peaceful community environment.

Please continue to support funding for dispute resolution education and services in Oregon. This funding is invaluable in light of our area not having access to the amount of services available to more densely populated areas of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Nancy Gromen, Executive Director



320 SE Fir Villa Rd. Dallas OR 97338
Mailing: PO Box 1194 Dallas OR 97338
Phone/Fax: 503 623-3111 Cell: 503 871-3766
Email: vorpcmsfms@gmail.com
Web: www.cmsmediate.org

March 13, 2019

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

To: Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

Re: HB 5024

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee members,

My name is Ken Braun and I am the Executive Director of the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, DBA Community Mediation Services (CMS) for Polk County. We have served the residents and businesses of Polk County with conflict resolution assistance, conflict coaching, education and training since 1983. CMS for Polk County has facilitated meaningful outcomes for Polk County community members for 35 years, and I'd like to share 2 projects that offers a snapshot into the impact our services have on youth, families and the community as a whole.

Polk County CMS facilitates Community Partners Staffings for youth and families who are having difficulty being successful in school, family and/or their communities. A typical staffing includes the family and youth, a number of vested agencies (Juvenile Dept, DHS Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, Oregon Youth Authority, peer and family supports, school district personnel etc.) and a CMS facilitator. All are gathered to discuss what challenges the youth and family are facing and what is needed to help the youth and family be successful. Yet, the dollars that are needed to assist these youth can be significant, and each agency is trying to stay within their budget and serve the needs of the youth. The CMS facilitator doesn't have a vested interest in the outcome and is well-positioned to assist the agencies and the family in creating a realistic and achievable action plan that supports the success of the youth in all their future endeavors.

CMS also works closely with the Juvenile Department to hold youth accountable for their actions and to assist those harmed by juvenile crime to be made whole. Victim Offender dialogues, using volunteer mediators, identify where restitution is needed. These dialogues have a better than 90% chance of full payment of restitution to the victim. In the process the offender takes responsibility for his/her choices and learns about the impact it has had on the victim directly from the victim. This process is powerful for both the victim and the offender. Our 35 year history has shown the offenders who participate become repeat offenders less than 15% of the time.

The funding that CMS and its sister programs across the state receive from the State of Oregon is critical to the success of these community-based programs. Please support community dispute resolution education and services for Oregon counties by continuing to fund Dispute Resolution services.

Respectfully,

Ken Braun –Executive Director – CMS for Polk County

Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution
541-574-9846 lcdr1997@gmail.com



March 22, 2019

To: Sen. Johnson, Co-Chair, Sen. Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair, and Rep Rayfield, Co-Chair of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means committee, Sen. Roblan and other Committee Members

From: Melinda Baxter, Chair of Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution Board
Patrick McGovern, Director

We are writing to ask you to continue supporting funding for dispute resolution, education and services for our community.

Since 1997 Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution (LCDR) has been providing dispute management and restorative practices for Lincoln County residents. We provide community and education in conflict management. With use of volunteers we have partnered with Lincoln County Court and have been able to reach agreement on over 80% of eviction cases, and over 50% of small claims cases, saving the State Court substantial resources.

Since our founding, LCDR has been on the forefront of creating, promoting and maintaining restorative practices in our county, including Lincoln County's Teen Court. Our partners have included: Lincoln County School District, Health and Human Services, Lincoln County Juvenile Department, Circuit Court, law enforcement agencies, Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse and many other agencies and community partners.

Lincoln County Teen Court was a successful program for 15 years. Beginning in 2012, we began Teen Justice Panels, an even more restorative diversion program for teens in the justice system. We have introduced and developed restorative programs in Lincoln County schools. This includes training students, staff and administrators in restorative practices, as well as facilitating accountability circles to prevent the use of suspensions and expulsions, and community building circles to create a welcoming, healthy and inclusive school culture. Oregon Department of Education provided a grant for the purpose of implementing restorative practices in the K-12 Siletz Valley School Charter School.

Recently we made a presentation on conflict management concepts to a conference of Oregon Community College Deans. Our presentation addressed an issue of importance to them: a restorative justice approach to campus-based sexual and gender-based harassment, including sexual violence, and sexual harassment on college campuses. Working with Oregon Coast Community College's restorative practices coordinator, LCDR continues to have a relationship with the college.

For a small Dispute Resolution Center, we have had a significant impact on many sectors of our county community, from preschool to the 60+ set. We therefore encourage you to continue to provide support for these vital services.



Common Ground Mediation
P.O. Box 635
NORTH BEND, OR 97459
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To: Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain, and committee members of Education subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means committee.

From: Larry Safley: Executive Director, Common Ground Mediation

RE: HB 5024

Greetings,

I am writing today to introduce our Community Dispute Resolution Center (CDRC) and to ask you to continue funding dispute resolution in education and services for your communities.

Common Ground Mediation, formerly known as Coos Douglas Neighbor to Neighbor, is one of 16 state CDRC's serving the state of Oregon since the late nineties. We serve Douglas County and Coos County, with offices in both, and extend our services to Curry County as needed. Our services include: court connected mediation programs involving Small Claims, and Landlord Tenant cases; the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program; Mobile Home Park mediation through Oregon Housing and Community Services; Community Mediation, Facilitation, and Education services to neighbors, businesses, non-profits, local governments, and schools.

We have had the good fortune of working closely with Phoenix School in Roseburg and Marshfield High in Coos Bay. We partnered with Phoenix School to develop a peer mediation program and continuing conflict skills training for 8th through 12th grade students. Similarly, we partnered with Marshfield High to provide a quarter of conflict skills training to 7th-12th grade students. In both cases students and teachers reported greater confidence in their ability to reduce conflict, and the escalation of conflict using alternative dispute resolution tools shared with them over the course of our partnership. Along with these efforts we have been working and learning with our colleagues in the schools about the potential for adding restorative practices to their menu of alternative dispute resolution practices. All involved agree that these practices help foster a safer learning environment, lower absenteeism, and greater engagement by students.

Your support of continued funding in the area of dispute resolution alternatives in education is vital to extending these tools and processes to other schools in our districts, expanding the positive impacts community wide.

Thank you for your current and ongoing support of these programs and funding,

Larry Safley
Executive Director Common Ground Mediation
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March 27, 2019

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

RE: HB 5024

Hillsboro Mediation Program was founded in 1994 as a way to provide support to police officers and reduce the number of repeat calls for service for non-criminal issues...essentially, livability issues. We train citizen volunteers to mediate in situations such as neighbor to neighbor problems, family communication problems, problems with local businesses, code compliance issues, and elder mediations. Our program is part of the Hillsboro Police Community Enhancement Team and is one aspect of our commitment to community policing. We receive referrals from police officers and code compliance officers along with requests from the public. We do outreach to the LatinX population in Western Washington County and have several Spanish speaking volunteer mediators. Our service area includes Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Banks, Gaston, and North Plains.

Our program is noted for our commitment to community education. We offer multiple opportunities each year for local people to attend workshops covering all types of communication, handling difficult conversations, responding under pressure and workplace communication skills. We offer all trainings to the public at no charge due to the grant we receive thru OOCDR and the State of Oregon.

We partner each year with various Oregon universities in providing internships to college students interested in learning more about conflict resolution and also law enforcement. In recent years we have hosted students from Portland State University, Portland Community College, and University of Oregon.

I am hopeful that the funding for dispute resolution in Oregon will continue to grow and support the efforts of those of us in the field. Our communities are more peaceful places when citizens work to help other citizens find solutions to problems that seem insurmountable.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Julie Keys

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