



Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice

Thank you, Co-chairs Beyer and Fahey, and all committee members:

My name is Brian Graunke and I live in Medford. I am the Director of Mediation for Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice of southern Oregon. Our center provides several forms of housing stability mediation, including the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program, Free Mediation for Manufactured Dwelling communities through Oregon Community Housing, and court connected eviction mediation in partnership with Jackson County Circuit Court.

I am here to ask that you direct 2.5 million to the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution for Eviction Prevention mediation to support and expand services by Oregon's 15 community mediation centers in all 36 counties.

Effective eviction mediation –especially before court eviction proceedings—can mitigate many of the underlying causes of our long-term housing instability problems. Mediation brings landlords and tenants together in a structured, safe and confidential setting where parties are empowered and supported to find solutions that work for all involved without needing to win or lose their cases.

When mediation is used early, this structured human-to-human process, paired with legal counsel, legal information, and community resources —creates more opportunities for solutions to resolve Oregon's housing crisis, and mitigates the downstream impacts of eviction.

Mediation is one of the key strategies included in national best practices when designing eviction prevention systems. Please support housing providers and tenants by directing 2.5 million to reinforce and expand the Oregon's eviction prevention mediation programs for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your leadership and for listening today.

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