

Submitter: Ken Braun
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB600

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Education Committee: Thank you for your work and service to our state. My name is Ken Braun and I am a mediator and the Executive Director of Community Mediation Services for Polk County, one of the Oregon Dispute Resolutions Centers that provides free mediation services to Polk County. We are supported by the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR) at the University of Oregon. I urge you to support SB 600. During this past year, my program has mediated restorative justice victim-offender dialogues, family disputes and neighbor to neighbor conflicts, including landlord/tenant eviction avoidance mediation. In addition we have facilitated nearly 100 staffings to assist state and county agencies find the appropriate resources and placements for youth and families that are falling through the cracks.

With an additional funding allocation to the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution, my center will increase our training and equipping of volunteer mediators, provide conflict resolution education for the community and small businesses, expand our restorative justice services and implement an eviction avoidance program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,
Ken Braun