

Submitter: Marcia Buckley
On Behalf Of: Myself as a Circuit Court Judge
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB600

As a Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge and a former mediator, I am a firm believer in the benefits of mediation and alternate dispute resolution. Each year, mediators have successfully resolved numerous Lincoln County cases involving landlord/tenant matters, benefitting both landlords and tenants. Many small claims cases are also resolved through mediation. Litigation can be a difficult, contentious, and emotional process for litigants. Mediation often removes a lot of the stress for those involved. Each time a case is resolved in mediation, it frees up time on my docket to schedule another hearing or trial, making the court system more efficient. Mediators need ongoing training in approaches, ethics, and changes to the law. I appreciate the patience and dedication of mediators. I support funding for Community Dispute Resolution training. I am providing this testimony in my own capacity, as a Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge, and not on behalf of the Oregon Judicial Department.