



3/8/2023

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Andrea Pacheco and I am the executive director of Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center. We provide mediation and training for our communities in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. We also cover Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington.

Our core work is to help community members navigate conflict in an affordable way, during some of the most pressing issues of their lives. We receive critical funding, in part, through the Oregon Office of Community Dispute Resolution, located within the University of Oregon Law School. **Despite doubly increased caseloads, priority requests from schools and community partners, this flat base funding has not increased to meet the need.**

Please support SB 600, to ensure that we are sustainably funded to address the needs of our community members. **We help people resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts, help keep people housed, teach people how to constructively resolve problems with one another, contributing to healthier, safer, and more peaceful communities.**

This funding is critical for our center to continue to provide the core mediation and training services that we do.

We aim to provide professional, locally responsive services through highly competent mediators to meet community needs at all income levels, and our local clients affirm that we're meeting this goal:

"Our 2 mediators were a perfect fit for us. Their kindness, compassion, skilled training to navigate through, and suggested options provided the best environment for us... I am so incredibly grateful and relieved. I did not want to traverse through the legal system that discloses our lives publicly, financially, and relationally pitting one against the other."

"I'm so glad that professional help was available."

Please support SB600 to sustainably fund the vital community work we do so well.

Sincerely,

Andrea Pacheco
Executive Director, Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center