



3/9/23

Dear Chair Debrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Becci Crane and I am on the Board of Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center.

I am writing to ask for your support of SB600, which increases critical funding for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center. Six Rivers provides mediation and training for seven counties in our rural communities; Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. They also cover Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington.

Six Rivers core work is to help community members navigate conflict in an affordable way, during some of the most pressing issues of their lives. They receive critical funding, in part, through the Oregon Office of Community Dispute Resolution, located within the University of Oregon Law School.

Caseloads continue to increase as well as priority requests from schools and community partners, however, the flat base funding has not increased to meet the need. This funding is critical for Six Rivers to continue to provide the core mediation and training services that they do. Please support SB 600, to ensure that Six Rivers is sustainably funded to address the needs of our community members. We help people resolve disputes faster and in a dignified and civil manner. We are considerably less expensive than going to court and in this way we provide access to justice to folks that would not otherwise have a forum to resolve their differences.

Six Rivers Landlord Tenant services helps keep people housed and off the streets. Six Rivers teaches people how to constructively resolve problems with one another, contributing to healthier, safer, and more peaceful communities. This funding is critical for Six Rivers to continue to provide the core mediation and training services that they do.

Mediation is a growing field and in today's polarized world, Six River's services are more important than ever. We add civility to problem solving and help our clients and the community work together to come to peaceful resolutions. Countless studies have shown that a mediated agreement, created by the parties, is followed better and is more effective than a court decision. Six Rivers offers an efficient, affordable, and pragmatic way to solve problems.

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

Sincerely,

Becci Crane