

Submitter: Cathi Rickett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB600

March 10, 2023

Dear Chair Debrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Cathi Rickett, and I'm a private lawyer-mediator and volunteer at Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center. I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 600 because I believe in the work being done at Six Rivers and other community dispute resolution centers in Oregon. Every Oregonian, regardless of their ability to pay, deserves the right to access professional services to resolve issue profoundly affecting their lives outside of court.

Through mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes, parties can resolve a variety of issues ranging from family matters to landlord tenant disputes in a mutually satisfactory manner. This has numerous benefits. It keeps cases out of our overworked judicial system, saving time and money for all concerned. More importantly, mutually agreed upon resolutions promote greater party satisfaction, which translates into a myriad of benefits, including mental, physical and financial health, that not only impacts the parties but also the broader community.

This is the life-changing work of Six Rivers and other community dispute resolution centers. I'm privileged to be part of this important work and ask that you support and fund it through the passage of Senate Bill 600.

Sincerely,
Cathi Rickett