



*Creating transformative peace by amplifying, aggregating,
and advancing the work of community mediation.*

April 16, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and Members of the Committee.

As the President of the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) I recognize that each state has many important funding priorities. Investing in Community Dispute Resolution demonstrates a priority to empower people, build resilient communities, and save the state millions of dollars in related costs.

I write today in support of solid and sustainable resources for Community Dispute Resolution, and Resolution Oregon which is based at the University of Oregon and helps to provide valuable education and mediation services all across the State. Resolution Oregon's statewide network provides conflict resolution education for youth and adult community members, mediation services, and connects people to local support service providers (e.g., financial resources, legal aid, rehousing & credit counseling). For more than 40 years, these services have shown to help communities improve graduation rates, reduce crime recidivism rates, and resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts.

In my role at NAFCM, I support the state directors in eight states. Resolution Oregon shines the light of hope and curiosity for our other state offices. I also support the local centers in Oregon. In 2017 one of four volunteers honored served your constituents. We have supported your centers directly focused on issues of formerly incarcerated adults, marginalized young adults and civic engagement. These preventative services help reduce community costs for incarceration, health care, associated court costs, and keep people housed who are at risk of foreclosure and eviction.

Please continue to invest in cost-effective mediation services that are complementary to other avenues for justice.

And do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or other needs.

Warm regards,

D.G. Mawn, President, NAFCM

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