



April 30, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525 – Fully Fund Dispute Resolution

Dear Co-chairs Sollman, Ruiz and Members of the committee:

Through direct mediation services and educational programming, Resolution Oregon's network of Community Resolution Centers help to improve school success, reduce crime recidivism among youth and adults, resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts alone, and help keep people housed.

The investment in Dispute Resolution supports public policy facilitations through Portland State University's Oregon Consenses and constituent mediation services through Resolution Oregon hosted by University of Oregon. Funds received for community dispute resolution pass-through the University of Oregon to provide services for low-income urban and rural community members all across the state.

Community resolution services are complimentary to other avenues of justice, and this investment saves the state millions of dollars each year. In housing stability mediation cases alone, the return on investment in Resolution Oregon for 2024 was about 3,000%, or an average of more than \$30M in saved downstream shelter costs, medical costs, and other costs that are known direct results of an eviction. The public and private cost savings from this investment are clear and undeniable.

Community dispute resolution is much more than good economics. Through community mediation and restorative justice, people find solutions that come from listening, connecting, and understanding. People are encouraged to seek legal counsel, and connected to resources to help them be informed and self-determine the agreement that can work for them.

In the last biennium, Resolution Oregon's network served over 35,000 community members in more than 10,000 cases. More than 5,000 youth and adults participated in over 1,500 skill building opportunities to improve their communication and conflict management skills. These services create a positive ripple through our communities and through all our lives.

Resolution Oregon
Patrick Sponsler, MPA
541-346-1623 | sponsler@uoregon.edu | resolutionoregon.org



Decades of survey responses indicate high quality and impactful services, such as: 83% of housing cases are resolved, 85% of survey respondents are satisfied with the outcome of the mediation, and 95% of respondents agree the process was fair.

Attached to this statement are a sample of letters submitted to Resolution Oregon in support of Community Resolution Center grant funding. These letters highlight the ongoing impacts made by the services and educational trainings that support school success, housing stability, increased public safety, and violence prevention.

With appropriate funding, Community Resolution Centers can quickly mobilize and respond to pressing and changing needs. Please continue to support Dispute Resolution Funding in SB 5525.

Thank you for your service to the State.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M Sponsler".

Patrick Sponsler, MPA

Compilation of letters submitted in support of Resolution Oregon's network of Community Dispute Resolution Centers

County Commissioner	Wasco County Commissioner: Phil Brady
City Official	Troutdale City Manager: Ray Young
Legal Community	Jackson County Circuit Court: Hon. Benjamin Bloom, Presiding Judge Trial Court Administrator, 10 th Judicial District: Michelle Leonard Legal Aid Services of Oregon Regional Director: Blair Bobier, Attorney
Public Safety	Dallas Police Department: Jerry Mott, Acting Chief of Police Polk County Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Mark Garton Union County Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Cody Bowen
Agencies	Oregon Housing and Community Services: Rick Abrego, Asst. Director of Manufactured Housing Dept. Tillamook County Juvenile Department: Matthew Thenell, Director Linn County Juvenile Department: Torri Lynn, Director
Schools	HRCSD Migrant Education Program: Patricia Ortega-Cooper
National	National Association for Community Dispute Resolution: D.G. Mawn, President
Private	Daniel Strome, Realtor, volunteer mediator, board member David Schlachter, Crossroad Resolution Group



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

April 25, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525 –Fully Fund Dispute Resolution

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

I write today in support of Community Dispute Resolution, which passes through Resolution Oregon at the University of Oregon and helps to provide valuable education and mediation services all across the State.

One notable example highlighting the value of Community Dispute Resolution is a recent instance where I sought assistance from Six Rivers Dispute Resolution to support a small city's council facing significant challenges. With the potential to escalate and impact the community's access to crucial resources, having a community dispute resolution center available to assist is invaluable in providing a constructive pathway for bridging divides and fostering mutual understanding.

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. 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 help our vulnerable community members by investing in cost-effective mediation services that are complementary to other avenues for justice. Please fully fund Dispute Resolution in the Statewide Programs section of SB 5525. Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincere regards,

Phil Brady
Wasco County Commissioner



April 11th, 2025

Patrick Sponsler
Resolution Oregon
1221 University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403-1221

RE: East County Resolutions

Dear Mr. Sponsler,

The City of Troutdale would like to express its' continued support for East County Resolutions and its pursuit of funding from the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution for the 2025-2027 biennium. I understand this funding source to be vital for East County Resolutions for many years and even more important as ECR transitions to a non-profit.

The City of Troutdale has valued ECR for many years. We really appreciate having an organization available to our citizens that is there to help resolve matters, so we don't have to get involved. Our residents, as well as the City itself, have utilized training, facilitation and mediation services provided by East County Resolutions. The experience has been positive, and we are appreciative of the high-quality service provided.

The City is again providing funding in its FY 2025-2026 Budget for this highly beneficial program.

It is Troutdale's hope that you will see the value in funding this program for 2025-2027 biennium so that it may continue to provide its crucial services to the communities of Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ray Young
City Manager

Cc City Council

Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County



Jackson County Justice Building – 100 S. Oakdale, Medford, OR 97501
Telephone (541) 776-7171 FAX (541) 776-7057

Benjamin M. Bloom, Judge

April 18, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Dispute Resolution Funding

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz and Members of the committee:

My name is Benjamin Bloom. I am the Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court. I have been a circuit judge for over 14 years, and in that time I have handled countless residential evictions. On my own behalf, and not as a representative of the Oregon Judicial Department, I am here to offer my support for fully funding Community Dispute Resolution through the Resolution Oregon program where funds pass-through the University of Oregon. I view increased funding for these services to be an access to justice issue and in that regard Community Dispute Resolution aligns with the Oregon Judicial Department's Strategic Campaign Commitment 1 to improve access to justice by enhancing service options. Mediation services are critical to the beneficial resolution of landlord-tenant cases. Our court mediators currently resolve approximately 75% of our landlord tenant cases, frequently allowing tenants to remain in possession of their dwellings and regularly avoiding eviction judgments on their records. In addition, because the mediation services are so successful, the judges of our court are able to hear other pressing matters set at the same time, including child custody cases and other domestic relations matters. This is why mediation is an access to justice issue. Our limited judicial officers are able to hear other pressing matters because of the success of the mediation services in landlord tenant cases.

Unfortunately, there are not enough mediators to provide all the services to tenants and property owners in residential eviction cases. Providing funding for dispute resolution helps maintain these services which in turn increases access to justice and provide better outcomes. For these reasons, I am urging your support of fully funding Community Dispute Resolution through Resolution Oregon.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin M. Bloom".

Honorable Benjamin Bloom - Presiding Judge
Jackson County Circuit Court

CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - UNION & WALLOWA COUNTIES

Thomas B. Powers
Presiding Judge
1105 "K" Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850
541-962-9500

101 S River St., Rm 204
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-4991



Jared D. Boyd
Circuit Judge
1105 "K" Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850
541-962-9500

101 S River St., Rm 204
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-4991

April 24, 2025

To: Whom it May Concern

RE: Eastern Oregon Mediation Center
10th Judicial District

Eastern Oregon Mediation Center (EOMC) continues to strengthen and improve as well as maintain quality standards. This Circuit Court assigns all small claim matters to mediation. EOMC continues to resolve a high percentage of cases which in turn won't ever need to go before a judge. We are lucky to have such a worthwhile service in our community. The Center provides quality solutions to resolve disputes before they rise to the level of judicial intervention. These resolutions are very important towards reducing the number of cases taking up court time.

The Center provides much needed education and dispute resolution outreach for our region of the state. Some of our neighboring counties have no dispute resolution options except for Eastern Oregon Mediation Center. The Center's presence makes a positive difference.

Please accept this letter as our continued support of the Mediation Center and their impressive mediators. The Center should continue as a reliable asset to this community and region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Leonard".

Michelle Leonard
Trial Court Administrator

cc: Honorable Thomas Powers
Jill Finney, EOMC Director



Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Lincoln County Office • 304 SW Coast Highway • PO Box 1970 • Newport, OR 97365 (541) 265-2833; (800) 222-3884 • Fax: (541) 265-9356

Date: April 28, 2025

RE: Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the continuing efforts of Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon serves low-income Oregonians as well as other vulnerable members of our community such as those who are elderly or disabled. Our most frequent interactions with LCDR come when we represent clients in eviction cases. The Lincoln County Circuit Court mandates the use of mediation in these types of cases. LCDR provides the mediators for this essential service. With mediation, the parties are often able to come to a mutually agreeable resolution that is a win-win for everyone. Mediation not only tends to produce better solutions, it does so with less cost and with preserving the relationships of the parties.

Our experience with LCDR has been very positive. I have been continually impressed with the professionalism and competence of their services. Our office also refers clients and other community members to LCDR for resolving disputes that are best handled through mediation which allows the parties to avoid the time, expense and acrimony often inherent in litigation. We are grateful for the role that LCDR plays in supporting our community's most vulnerable members and are thankful for the efforts of this organization's staff and volunteers.

Feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Blair Bobier,
Attorney at Law
Regional Director



DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS N. SIMPSON, CHIEF OF POLICE

187 SE COURT STREET, DALLAS, OR 97338
503-831-3516 * 503-623-7352 (F)

WWW.DALLASOR.GOV

April 17, 2025

Administrator
Resolution Oregon
University of Oregon School of Law
1221 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

To Whom it May Concern,

Community Mediation Services of Polk County is a valuable partner in our public safety mission, and I write to support funding for community dispute resolution centers. Community Mediation Services of Polk County has demonstrated a meaningful impact in our community for over 42 years.

Community Mediation Services works closely with the Juvenile Department to hold youth accountable for their actions and to assist those harmed by juvenile crime to be made whole. Using volunteer mediators, parties identify where restitution is needed, and these dialogues have a better than 90% chance of full payment of restitution to the victim. In the process the offender takes responsibility for his/her choices and learns about the impact it has had on the victim directly from the victim. This process is powerful for both the victim and the offender. Community Mediation Services has shown that 85% of offenders who participate do not recidivate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Mott".

Jerry Mott
Acting as Chief of Police



POLK COUNTY

850 MAIN STREET * DALLAS, OREGON 97338-3185 * 503-623-9251 / FAX 503-623-2060

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark Garton

April 9th, 2025

Executive Director Ken Braun
Oregon Office of Community Dispute Resolution
320 SE Fir Villa Rd
Dallas, OR 97338

To: Whom it may concern

Please accept this letter as my show of full support for your grant funding request so Community Mediation Services for Polk County may continue helping its residents through conflict resolution. The staff and volunteers of Community Mediation Services are incredibly good at their job and are easy to work with. They have an uncanny ability to help diffuse situations, which allows people who have some form of conflict to reach a positive outcome, together.

As part of the Polk County Public Safety System, I can say that I know that Community Mediation Services has a positive impact on both the offender and the victim. This program has been successful in our community for a long period of time and I have seen that it really does work. The cases that Community Mediation Services are involved in see less time in the official judicial system. Because of their continued success, offenders are less likely to reoffend because they see and understand how their actions are perceived by others. Dealing with these types of situations outside of courtroom can create a positive result for the involved parties and for the community.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office strongly supports the effort of Community Mediation Services in securing grant funding. This program allows for open communication between offenders and victims in a safe environment. Allowing people to help correct their minor errors in judgement, without developing a formal criminal history is a worthwhile endeavor that shows positive long term affects, for all those involved. Please fund this essential program so our community members can have the ability to participate in conflict resolution and solve problems in our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Garton".

Sheriff Mark Garton
Polk County Sheriff's Office



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cody Bowen, Sheriff

April 15, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for the Eastern Oregon Mediation Center. This organization provides a vital service to the citizens of Union County. As a small, rural county we have fewer resources available for many of the crucial services needed. As a law enforcement agency our deputies often find themselves responding to calls for service that they as law enforcement cannot do anything to resolve the situation.

This is because many of these calls are, in reality, civil issues and situations that are better handled outside of the criminal court system. The Mediation Center offers very necessary and crucial services for these people in order to efficiently handle disagreements. It allows a deputy to resolve a situation without arresting or criminally citing someone into the already overburdened criminal court system. Being able to prevent a civil matter from ending up in criminal court is beneficial to all parties. With a fully operational and functional mediation service we can more effectively serve the needs of the citizens of Union County.

It is my hope as a law enforcement leader and as an EOMC Advisory Board Member, that you can assist us to the fullest extent possible. Any financial assistance offered would be put to good use by the Center to benefit Union County citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody Bowen".

Cody Bowen, Sheriff
Union County Sheriff's Office
La Grande, Oregon



OREGON HOUSING *and*
COMMUNITY SERVICES

725 SUMMER STREET NE, SUITE B | SALEM, OR 97301
503-986-2000 | www.oregon.gov/OHCS

April 28, 2025

Patrick Sponsler
Contract Administrator
Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution
University of Oregon School of Law
1221 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

Dear Mr. Sponsler,

I am signing this letter in support of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor mediation services in Marion, Linn, Benton and Yamhill counties and its continued funding through the University of Oregon for the 2025-2027 biennium.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Community Dispute Resolution mediation services is an important partner in supporting the residents, owners, and managers of manufactured home parks in Marion, Linn, Benton and Yamhill counties. As facilitators and mediators between tenants and park providers, Community Dispute Resolution Services, in Marion, Linn, Benton and Yamhill counties provide a means for issues to be settled in accordance with ORS 90.767 and encourages mandatory mediation services. Helping people to maintain their affordable living situations also contributes to housing stability in the area.

I urge you to continue funding the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Community Dispute Resolution Services in Marion, Linn, Benton and Yamhill counties.

Sincerely,

Rick Abrego

Rick Abrego
Assistant Director Manufacturing Housing Dept
Oregon Housing and Community Services



TILLAMOOK COUNTY
Juvenile Department

Mari Garric Trevino
Circuit Court Judge

Jonathan R. Hill
Circuit Court Judge

201 Laurel Ave.
Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: (503) 842-3417
Fax: (503) 842-3510

April 8, 2025

Dear Members of the Grant Committee,

I am writing to express our support for the grant application submitted by Tillamook Office of Mediation (TOM). As an employee of the Juvenile Department, I am working with the organization, and see the potential impact their programs could have on the individuals and families we serve. TOM has offered us staff training, as well, so we can better address the conflicts we face on the job. I endorse TOM's request for funding, so they can begin to grow in their community impact.

Tillamook Office of Mediation offers essential programs that address the challenges faced by youth, families, and communities. The no-cost family and community mediation services they provide will be critical in fostering healthier, more peaceful interactions. These services will enable families to work through conflicts in a constructive way, avoiding potential legal involvement and promoting long-term stability. We are excited to witness how these mediations empower families to find mutually beneficial solutions and improve communication. This is crucial to strengthening family units and preventing further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Additionally, TOM's conflict resolution classes for youth, both in the high school and the Youth Correctional Facility, will play a vital role in equipping young people with the tools they need to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence or destructive behavior. These classes will teach critical life skills such as communication, empathy, and problem-solving, which are fundamental to reducing recidivism and promoting positive behavior among youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

TOM's work aligns well with the Juvenile Department's mission of supporting rehabilitation and preventing further criminal activity among youth. By addressing underlying issues in a proactive, restorative manner, TOM's programs will not only reduce the likelihood of youth re-offending, but also provide them with a sense of empowerment and hope for the future. The skills and support TOM plans to provide will help break the cycles of conflict, offering our youth a chance at a brighter, more productive life.

I am confident that this initial funding for Tillamook Office of Mediation will contribute significantly to the wellbeing of our community and the success of our youth. I strongly encourage the committee to support this grant application and ensure that TOM's valuable services will have a chance to benefit the families and youth in our area.

Thank you for considering my letter of support. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Thenell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Matthew Thenell, Director
Tillamook County Juvenile Department





LINN COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

104 SW 4th Ave. Suite 200 / PO Box 100

Albany OR 97321

Phone: 541-967-3853

Fax: 541-967-4268



April 28, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Inc. I am recommending that you consider supporting their request for grant funding. By funding this request you will directly impact a community need and provide an essential service not offered by any other local agency.

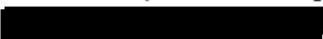
The Linn County Juvenile Department adopted and implemented a restorative justice model more than 25 years. Victim/offender mediation is a key piece of that model. Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Inc. provides this victim/offender mediation to our adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth. Neighbor-to-Neighbor also helps us provide a monthly Life Choices Class for non-adjudicated youth as a condition of their Formal Accountability Agreement to help them have a better understanding of how their behavior and choices effects the community.

Mediation services in the juvenile justice system are recognized as evidence-based programs for crime reduction and reducing recidivism. These programs have retributive, rehabilitative and preventative qualities that emphasize offender accountability. We have first-hand knowledge of the power of these programs to bring about change in the lives of the youth we serve.

We have worked closely with Neighbor-to-Neighbor since 2011. This collaboration helps make Linn County a better place to live.

We hope to continue our relationship with Neighbor-to-Neighbor and strongly recommend that you consider granting their funding request.

Torri Lynn
Director
Linn County Juvenile Department



Torri Lynn
Director
Juvenile Department
tlynn@co.linn.or.us

Rob Perkins Jr.
Deputy Director
Juvenile Department
rperkins@co.linn.or.us

Jose Reyes
Program Manager
Juvenile Department
jreyes@co.linn.or.us

Tracy Rieker
Office & Finance Manager
Juvenile Department
trieker@co.linn.or.us

Kevin Husk
Detention Manager
Linn-Benton Detention Center
khusk@co.linn.or.us



COLUMBIA GORGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Columbia Gorge Community College, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center in their application for funding Community Dispute Resolution Services through Resolution Oregon.

Columbia Gorge Community College has had the privilege of collaborating with Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center over the past year, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of their mission to empower and train individuals and organizations to resolve disputes in healthy, civil, and peaceful ways. Their professional development training for the Student Services team, focusing on de-escalation, has consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering harmony and constructive dialogue.

The work of Six Rivers aligns seamlessly with our shared values and objectives. Their emphasis on equipping people with the tools and strategies necessary for managing conflicts effectively not only addresses immediate needs but also nurtures long-term growth, understanding, and respect within the community.

This grant funding will enable Six Rivers to sustain its efforts, reach individuals and organizations, enhance accessibility, and refine the resources necessary for impactful dispute resolution. Their continued success will yield tangible, far-reaching benefits to our community and beyond.

We wholeheartedly endorse Six Rivers and their application for this funding. Please feel free to contact me directly at [k\[REDACTED\]@cgcc.edu](mailto:k[REDACTED]@cgcc.edu) should you require additional information or clarification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karly Aparicio
Interim Vice President of Student Services

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



*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

NAFCM Board of Directors

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Mindy Burrell, Co-Chair (District of Columbia)

Charles Lieske, Treasurer (Nebraska)

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Kabrina Bass, Co-Chair, Impact and Values (Illinois)

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Courtney Chicvak, Chair, Membership Enhancement (New York)

Lisa Singh, Chair Strategic Partnerships and Resources (Ohio)

Elahe Amani (California)

Whitney Trumble (Illinois)

D.G. Mawn, President (Kentucky)

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525 – Fully Fund Dispute Resolution

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

Our state has many important funding priorities, including investing in programs that are proven to show that they help to empower people, build resilient communities, and save the state millions of dollars in other costs. Resolution Oregon does exactly that. I write today in support of Community Dispute Resolution, which passes through Resolution Oregon at the University of Oregon and helps to provide valuable education and mediation services all across the State.

I have been volunteering for Community Solutions of Central Oregon for years. I am currently Board President. We are a working Board. My main contribution is to facilitate OFAP resolution conferences. Over the past two years we've served scores of homeowners. As a REALTOR, I know that avoiding foreclosure not only avoids the cost to the homeowner, but also costs to taxpayers, the community and even the lending institutions. In these uncertain times where there seems to be little federal protection, CDRCs offer Oregonians some measure of support and control over the outcome of what is often the most stressful events in their lives. Furthermore, we conduct yearly trainings and monthly brown bags to try to teach more people how to mediate. We also offer facilitation services to help 501c3s get through conflict and neighborhood groups of new homeowners learn how to better interact so they can live more harmoniously with one another. We do so many great things that make Oregonians lives better, I hope you will continue to support CDRCs, as you have for the last 36 years.

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 been shown to help communities improve graduation rates, reduce crime recidivism rates, and resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts. 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 help our vulnerable community members by investing in cost-effective mediation services that are complementary to other avenues for justice. Please fully fund Dispute Resolution in the Statewide Programs section of SB 5525.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Yours,
Danielle Strome



Subject: SB 5525
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 11:58:46 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: David Schlachter
To: Patrick Sponsler
Attachments: image001.png

Please share this testimony.

Committee members: In our current cultural climate, disagreement, and unhealthy approaches to resolving the same is very prevalent, whether in politics or simple neighbor to neighbor and other more personal situations. Having available mediation resources to promote and provide these services is vital for the health of our communities but is also much more cost effective than giving individuals only the courts to resolve disputes, or to not resolve them at all.

Dave

David Schlachter
Crossroads Resolution Group LLC
503-764-9254 (office)
406-794-1770 (cell)
www.crossroadsresolution.com



Faith-based conflict solutions

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