



May 6, 2021

Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-chairs Frederick and McLain and committee members,

I write to request that you please fully fund Dispute Resolution in the State Programs at Universities section of the budget which funds community dispute resolution services across the state through the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR).

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency Youth Services is proud to write in support of Neighbor to Neighbor, Inc., and to share with you the valuable partnership we have developed over the years. In our experience working with Neighbor to Neighbor, we have been ever grateful for their assistance in reconnecting the youth we serve with their families in a professional and trauma informed way. We often work with Neighbor to Neighbor's Parent/Teenager Mediation Program, free of charge, in order to achieve reunification between youth and their families.

One of our core outcomes is safety and stability for our youth and their families, which includes the goal that youth exiting our services are entering into a safe, stable living situation. Many times this involves reunification with family—a vision brought to life through our partnership with Neighbor to Neighbor. Community Action youth and staff work with their family and Neighbor to Neighbor mediators for several two-hour sessions over the course of several months, with the purpose of expressing needs and feelings with clarity in order to improve situations between parties. Ultimately, a plan is developed to enable our youth and their parents/guardians to live together in a safe and stable environment.

Another one of our core outcomes is also supported through Neighbor to Neighbor interactions: providing well-being. Neighbor to Neighbor mediators facilitate a healthy environment to discuss sensitive subjects, demonstrating to our youth what a healthy interaction should look like. These mediation sessions also help to expand youths' communication and relationship skills, and model safe and constructive behavior.

Our work would be lost without Neighbor to Neighbor, and we will continue to use their vital services for many years to come. The services provided by Neighbor to Neighbor are irreplaceable, because they help us accomplish our core mission: to reunifying families and stabilize family life. Our partnership is one of remarkable respect, trust, and synergy, which saves lives, and creates better outcomes for families within our community.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Jones
Executive Director



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OREGON

School of Law

May 10, 2021

Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-chairs Frederick and McLain and committee members,

The above letter of support highlights one of the fifteen community dispute resolution centers that receive grant funds through the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution. OOCDR uploaded the letter to OLIS on their behalf.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Sponsler".

Patrick Sponsler, MPA
sponsler@uoregon.edu
OOCDR Administrator

Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution

1515 Agate St. Eugene, OR. 97403
541-346-1623 | uoregon.edu

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