

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



Wes Williams
Circuit Judge
1105 "K" Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850
541-962-9500

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

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Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-4991

May 6, 2021

Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
RE: Dispute Resolution

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).

I have written more than one letter of support for our Eastern Oregon Mediation Center (EOMC) and there is a reason for that. We are lucky to have such a viable service in our community. EOMC provides quality solutions to resolve disputes before they rise to the level of judicial intervention. We have come to expect this and our docket time is precious, these resolutions are very important towards reducing the number of cases taking up court time.

The service continues to strengthen and evolve as well as maintain their usual quality standards. The Circuit Court routinely assigns all small claim matters to mediation and EOMS still maintains a high percentage of cases resolved without proceeding to a trial before a judge.

This last year the Center's local effort towards training and education for our community and mediators has been impressive. There is no reason that I can see why this center should not continue to be a reliable asset to this community and region. Please accept this letter and many more to come in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle".

Michelle Leonard
Trial Court Administrator

cc: Honorable Thomas Powers
Jill Finney, EOMC Director



UNIVERSITY OF
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

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