

Submitter: Carole Shelton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB600

Good morning, Chair Dembrow and Members of the Education Committee:
Thank you for your work and services to our state.

My name is Carole Shelton and I am a Program Coordinator with Neighbor to Neighbor, one of the Oregon Dispute Resolutions Centers that provides free mediation services to Marion, Linn and Benton Counties. We are supported by the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR) at the University of Oregon.

I urge you to support SB 600.

This past year at our center, we have worked on more than 900 cases in small claims court, FED court, manufactured home parks, schools, neighborhoods and business. It has been amazing to see how mediation has brought clarity, understanding and forward momentum on issues that were otherwise overwhelming, frustrating and at a stand-still for members of our community. Mediation provides positive results and is a valuable service to our community.

With an additional funding allocation to the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution, my center will increase our training and equipping of mediators, implement more school programs, expand our restorative justice programs and sustain our eviction avoidance program.

Thank you for your consideration!