

Submitter: William Dalton
On Behalf Of: Neighbor-to-Neighbor
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB600

Dear Senate Committee on Education.

I am writing in support of SB600.

As a human services provider for over 35 years, and a long-time volunteer for Marion County's Volunteer Community Mediation Program (Neighbor-to-Neighbor), I have experienced first-hand the value of community-based dispute resolution. This process not only empowers participants to take responsibility for settling conflicts/disputes peacefully, but leads to Win-Win resolutions that have the greatest likelihood of being respected and maintained long-term. Additionally - and equally importantly - these voluntary and equitably available services .. provide affordable avenues of resolution for ALL citizens, regardless of income (something not available through our current legal system; and .. offer alternatives to the utilization of over-worked and often under-funded public service agencies (e.g., Animal Control, Sheriff's Departments, Small Claim Courts, ...).

One can truly appreciate the true value of Conflict Resolution Services when you see once-feuding neighbors shaking hands and leaving a voluntary mediation session with a written agreement that they have crafted!

For sheer leverage of our public dollars, and mutual benefits for our citizens and community, this program is an exceptional investment.

SB600 will allow the continuation and expansion of this community-based resource throughout Oregon.

I urge your full support.

Sincerely,
William Dalton - Salem, Oregon