

Senator Janeen Sollman and 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 and the organization I work for have had a tremendous impact for residents in the City of Portland by offering mediation as a service to the BIPOC, Veterans, Elders, Disabled and LGBTQ community that gives space and restorative opportunities to improve their lives and communication. We have a sliding scale for individuals that are facing financial hardship and who generally do not have the same amount of supportive services to handle disputes.

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.

Best,

E Moore