

Submitter: Elizabeth Bly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB5525

Senator Janeen Sollman

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, Representative Ruiz and Members of the Committee,

We are kindly asking you to please support Community Dispute Resolution, which passes through Resolution Oregon at the University of Oregon. This support will allow us and other conflict resolution centers to continue our valuable work.

Tillamook Office of Mediation is the newest nonprofit conflict resolution center in the State. We are dedicated to providing no-cost mediation services and no- and low-cost conflict resolution workshops for community members. We were only granted our non-profit status in mid-February, and already we have graduated a class of mediators, connected with important partners like DHS and the Juvenile Department, and offered a day-long community workshop on de-escalation, with more to come. On top of this, we have developed a ten-week conflict resolution course to take to our area high schools, and Youth Correctional Facility in the autumn. Our small, volunteer-run organization depends on the Resolution Oregon funds in order to do this important work. We really are bridging differences in Tillamook County, and we need your support to continue to do so.

Conflict resolution services like ours have proven to save the State millions of dollars in trickle-down costs. We trust you will support cost-effective mediation and conflict resolution services across Oregon. We sincerely ask you to please fully fund Dispute Resolution in the Statewide Programs section of SB 5525.

We appreciate your hard work on our State's behalf.

With thanks,
Elizabeth Bly

Chair