

Submitter: Edward Vance

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 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.

For 36 years I was a police officer, attaining the rank of Detective before I retired. During that time I handled neighborhood, community livability, juvenile and family issues. Because of this assignment I became a Mediator and helped start a neighborhood mediation program at the police department. I truly believe that Mediation works and is a beneficial asset to any community. These type programs can save lives and help make communities safer by assisting people in solving their conflicts without resorting to violence. Also by teaching these concepts community members will learn skills to handle conflicts that may arise in the future.

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.

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,
Edward Vance