

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.

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 Co-Founded this program 40 years ago. I cannot think of a program that has provided so much return on State investment than this program. It does this by training and deploying volunteer mediators in communities all over the state. I believe that it could accomplish much more if it were funded to expand this model to specific challenges the state faces. The quality of the management of the program is solid as it has ever been and provides an opportunity to go to the next level.

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 helped 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,  
Greg Wolf

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "W".