



SECOND HOME

— A program of EMOregon

April 30, 2025

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 Co-chairs Sollman, Ruiz and Members of the committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the Beaverton Center for Mediation and Dialogue (BCMD) Program and its continued funding for the 2025 – 2027 biennium.

Second Home provides long-term housing for unaccompanied high school students so that they can graduate from high school. Students are housed with volunteer home providers who provide no-cost, stable, long-term housing. Volunteers from the BCMD facilitate the negotiations between student and home provider to establish a relationship of open communication, clear expectations, and mutual trust. BCMD staff and volunteers have helped facilitate all of Second Home's Beaverton housing contracts between students and home providers since the Fall of 2010.

The contribution of BCMD cannot be overstated. Our students and home providers have unanimously voiced appreciation for their professional assistance. The expertise and involvement of the BCMD staff and volunteers in this project exemplifies how a partnership between public and private agencies can encourage an effective community response to an exceptionally difficult problem.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon strongly endorses continued funding and support of the BCMD in order to continue their outstanding work in our community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hale
Program Director
Second Home
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon