



**The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution  
and  
Conflict Management  
Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
Maggie Lewis, Associate Director  
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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management (OCDR) was created in 1989 to “...provide, coordinate, fund, and evaluate dispute resolution and conflict management education, training and research programs in this state, and to consult with, educate, train, provide resources for and otherwise assist and facilitate...entities that are engaged in activities related to dispute resolution and conflict management.” (Ohio Revised Code 179.02). OCDR has, and continues to, provide dispute resolution programs and services in schools, courts, communities and throughout state and local governments. The agency has enjoyed and benefitted from close working relationships with many program partners including the Ohio Department of Education and the Supreme Court of Ohio. As such, OCDR’s nationally recognized programs and services are both relevant and unique within state government.

Whereas the agency received GRF support during 1989-2010, the Executive version of H.B. 153 recommended no GRF appropriation and subsequent removal of OCDR’s operating statute. In order however, for OCDR to continue its’ mission, the operating statute must be maintained. The House restored the agency’s operating statute and as such, OCDR respectfully requests your concurrence with this change.

Thank you for your time and your attention. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.