



OFFICE OF SENATOR KATE LIEBER

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Statement on Senate Bill 97: Funding Mediation in Family Court

The Oregon Senate voted today to invest in long-term stability for Oregon families

SALEM, OR – In a vote of 19 to 11 today on the floor of the Oregon Senate, Senate Bill 97 advanced. The bill allows an increase in fees on certificates for marriage and domestic partnerships, with the fee supporting mediation services in family courts.

Senator Kate Lieber, a former divorce attorney, released the following statement:

“I don’t have to be a lawyer to know that divorces and custody disputes are brutal for families. Mediation, rather than trial, is proven to lower stress and trauma for children involved in family court and it’s more efficient for court operations.

The bill Senate Democrats voted for today lets local governments decide to increase fees on marriage licenses so that mediation services are there for families in their toughest moments. Those disputes get solved best—both for the people involved and for the court system—through mediation. My colleagues and I are proud we supported access to those services today.”