

From: Doug VanEpps
To: CDRP Centers
CC: Chris Harris; Michelle Hilliker
Date: 12/7/2009 8:54 AM
Subject: Federal Bill to Support Youth Conflict Resolution
Attachments: Grassroots letter for Rush bill.doc; Summary- Conflict Resolution and Mediation Bill.doc; Conflict Resolution and Mediation Act.pdf

For centers interested in school/youth mediation programs, please see the following NAFCM email. Doug

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>>> "Justin R. Corbett" <corbett@indyspote.org> 12/4/2009 12:03 PM >>>

Dear Fellow Community Mediation Programs:

As you may know, Representative Bobby Rush of Illinois' First District has introduced the Conflict Resolution and Mediation Act of 2009, HR4000. It is now awaiting action in the Education and Labor Committee. This act would fund local education agencies to implement conflict resolution programs. The Center for Conflict Resolution in Chicago, which is the center in Congressman Rush's district, has been in touch with Congressman Rush and is encouraging him to include in the bill the potential role for community mediation centers in providing conflict resolution services to and in partnership with schools. At this time, Congressman Rush needs additional co-sponsors before he can move the bill to a hearing and ultimately to the Floor for a vote.

We are asking community mediation centers to help Congressman Rush find these co-sponsors by asking your Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor the bill. Supporting this bill (and any bill that raises awareness about and funding for conflict resolution) is good public policy. We also have the potential to demonstrate the prevalence of the community mediation movement by activating our volunteers to contact their Representatives. This may increase the possibility that community mediation will get written into this and other bills directly.

Please pass this information on to your volunteers and partners. The full Bill and a Summary are attached.

A sample letter is below. Please add the information for your specific community mediation center and adjust it as you see fit for your district.

Please also write back to Lorig Charkoudian at lorig.charkoudian@gmail.com to let her know of the number of letters sent from your center and if you receive any responses. We will communicate this back to Congressman Rush's office.

In community,
ACR Community Section, Tri-Chairs
Beth Bailey-Allen
Lorig Charkoudian
Justin R. Corbett

&

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