STATE OF NEBRASKA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *The Office of Dispute Resolution of the State of Nebraska, created by statute in 1991 as part of the Administrative Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court, is celebrating more than 14 years of mediation in our state; and*

WHEREAS, *The six ODR-approved non-profit regional community mediation centers have been providing access to mediation, collaboration, restorative justice and other resolution services for more than 14 years to citizens in every county in Nebraska; and*

WHEREAS, *The mediation centers, in cooperation with the Office of Dispute Resolution, have handled over 20,000 cases since 1992 involving families, businesses, elders and youth, schools, government and policy makers, neighborhoods and organizations; and*

WHEREAS, *Professionally trained and experienced center-affiliated mediators have provided over 50,000 hours of service to more than 75,000 citizens of Nebraska, all of whom received assistance regardless of their ability to pay; and*

WHEREAS, *The Office of Dispute Resolution has partnered with the NMCA Training Institute and the six ODR-approved member centers to provide high quality mediation and related training and educational opportunities for all who may benefit; and*

WHEREAS, *Mediation and other collaborative processes are continuing to grow in use and availability, including services such as: Douglas County Mediation and Conciliation Court; private and independent mediators; court-based processes such as small claims, child welfare dependency facilitated hearings; and*

WHEREAS, *Mediation is a constructive and empowering process which offers opportunities for the citizenry to explore important issues and to develop constructive ways to interact, negotiate or implement satisfactory outcomes; and*

WHEREAS, *In these turbulent times of interpersonal and world conflict, the Office of Dispute Resolution, the ODR-member centers, court-based mediation programs and independent mediators all strive to help Nebraskans to resolve their differences by providing these services.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of April 2006, as*

MEDIATION MONTH

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to join with me in actively supporting mediation as a means to peaceful resolution of disputes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-First day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Six.

Attest:

Secretary of State

Governor