

Testimony on SB 1583 – Neutral with Concerns

Submitted by Meli Rose, Deputy Director, Iron Tribe Network

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Meli Rose, and I am the Deputy Director of Iron Tribe Network. I am submitting this testimony to share neutral comments with concerns regarding SB 1583, particularly as it relates to stability for Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs) and providers operating within multi-year grant agreements.

Iron Tribe Network provides family recovery housing and peer support services across eight counties in Oregon and participates in four BHRNs. We are currently in year one of a four-year grant cycle. However, we are already being asked to plan for significant funding reductions in year two, which were discussed with providers this week and are scheduled to take effect in July.

As a result of this anticipated reduction, Iron Tribe Network has already had to make difficult planning decisions, including pulling back peer support services in three of the four BHRNs we participate in to preserve the critical recovery housing we provide. These decisions are being made months in advance to avoid disruption to families and to maintain housing stability.

While SB 1583 does not directly reduce funding, changes to governance, oversight, or rulemaking authority during an active multi-year grant cycle risk compounding existing instability. Even well-intentioned structural changes create uncertainty around expectations, reporting requirements, and future planning at a time when providers are already adjusting to reduced resources.

Behavioral health providers depend on predictability to responsibly manage staffing, housing capacity, and continuity of care. Repeated changes—financial or administrative—make it increasingly difficult to sustain services over multiple years and undermine the stability these programs are designed to provide.

As the Legislature considers SB 1583, I respectfully urge attention to timing, transition, and provider impact. If changes to oversight or administration move forward, it is essential that existing grants be protected from retroactive changes, that transition timelines be clearly communicated, and that providers be meaningfully engaged before any mid-cycle adjustments are implemented.

Iron Tribe Network remains committed to accountability, coordination, and continuous improvement within Oregon’s behavioral health system. That work is best supported through stable funding, clear governance, and sufficient time for systems to mature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of the operational realities facing community-based providers.

Respectfully submitted,

Meli Rose

Deputy Director

Iron Tribe Network