

Submitter:

Goldie Ward

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Goldie Ward, and I am the PRIME+ & Outreach Supervisor at 4D Recovery. Prior to this role, I worked on the 4D Deflection Team in Multnomah County, where I saw firsthand how deflection connects people to treatment and support instead of pushing them deeper into the criminal legal system.

I also bring lived experience to this work. I have over two years in recovery from drugs and alcohol. What worked for me was access to treatment and peer support; the same services that Measure 110 helped expand and stabilize across Oregon.

In my current role, I see every day how deflection, treatment access, and peer-led support help people engage in care, build trust, and move toward recovery. SB 1583 would destabilize these systems by shifting oversight and funding in ways that disrupt services providers and communities have spent years building.

Oregon should focus on strengthening and improving the systems that are already working, including treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services , not creating instability through major governance changes that risk leaving people without support.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583. Thank you for considering my testimony.