

Submitter: Damion Clowdus
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1583. As a recovery mentor working closely with individuals and families impacted by substance use, I see every day how important stable access to treatment, recovery support, harm reduction, and deflection services is. The systems built under Measure 110 have taken years to develop, and many people are only now beginning to trust and use these services. Shifting oversight and funding in ways that disrupt services risks undoing progress that communities and providers have worked hard to achieve.

Providers, mentors, and recovery organizations have spent years building relationships and expanding services so people can get help when they are ready. Abrupt structural changes create uncertainty for programs and staff, making it harder to provide consistent care. When services become unstable, people in recovery are often the ones who suffer, and some may lose access to the support that helps them stay sober and move forward in their lives.

Instead of creating instability through major governance shifts, Oregon should focus on strengthening existing programs, improving coordination, and making sure data and accountability systems continue to improve. Supporting what is already working will better serve communities and help more people access treatment and recovery services when they need them.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1583 and continue supporting efforts that strengthen, rather than disrupt, Oregon's recovery and treatment systems.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Damion "Mikey" Clowdus