

Submitter: Candice Altman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

For the record, my name is Candice Altman, and I work in the recovery field. I am also a person in recovery. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

I am here in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1583.

This bill would fundamentally restructure Measure 110 by shifting funding, oversight, and decision-making away from Oregon's health systems and toward a criminal justice-oriented framework. From both my professional and personal perspective, this shift would create significant instability for treatment, recovery services, harm reduction, and deflection programs across the state.

Measure 110 has not been perfect, but we are finally beginning to see progress as systems stabilize, partnerships strengthen, and early challenges are worked through. This bill risks undoing that progress at a critical moment. Moving oversight away from health systems would create gaps in an already fragile continuum of care, introduce inconsistency in service delivery, and disproportionately harm rural communities and resource deserts that already struggle to access care.

More importantly, SB 1583 signals a philosophical shift that deeply concerns me. Addiction and substance use disorder are, at their core, health issues. Reframing them through a different lens moves us away from evidence-based care and toward a morality-based response that history has shown does not lead to recovery, stability, or safety.

As someone in recovery who now works alongside others trying to find their way out of addiction, this bill feels devastating. It threatens programs that serve as a lifeline, programs that meet people where they are, offer dignity, and provide a real path forward. These services are often the first point of hope someone experiences after years of instability, trauma, and system involvement.

Public safety and recovery are not competing goals. When people have access to consistent, health-centered services, communities are safer and outcomes improve. SB 1583 moves us in the opposite direction.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 1583 and to preserve a health-based approach to addiction that reflects compassion, evidence, and the realities faced by communities across Oregon.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to thoughtful policymaking.

Respectfully,

Candice Altman