

**I am the human proof that health-based recovery works.**

On September 19, 2015, my life felt like a dead end. I was on and off the streets of Portland, drinking and injecting drugs, committing crimes and spiraling out of control.

Today? **I am a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist holding a Master's degree, providing life-changing therapy to kids and their families.**

My journey didn't happen in a vacuum, and it didn't happen through the cold jail cell at the Justice Center one. While an arrest was my "wake-up call," the justice system isn't what rebuilt my soul ...social services did.

### **The Safety Net That Caught Me:**

- **Central City Concern & Transition Projects:** Gave me the floor to stand on.
- **Miracles Club & Cascade AIDS Project:** Provided the community and health support to keep me alive.
- **Pride of the Rose and Peacock in the Park Productions:** Saw my potential and granted me the scholarships to earn my Master's. Darcelle's legacy lives on...Oregon drag queens are giving kids a voice through ME!

### **The Professional Barrier**

Even with **ten years of continuous sobriety** and a career dedicated to helping children, my criminal history remains a constant, grueling hurdle in the professional world. We should be making it *easier* for people to transition from the margins to the workforce, not more difficult.

### **Why SB 1583 is a Step Backward**

Measure 110 created a system of care and trust that took five years to build. Shifting oversight back toward a criminal justice framework creates instability. It risks breaking the very ladder I climbed.

**Don't destabilize the programs that turn street-level tragedies into professional success stories.** I urge you to **Oppose SB 1583**. Keep the focus on health, recovery, and the humans behind the statistics.

**Respectfully,**

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