

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Luis Mendez, and I am a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) counselor at Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad. I am also an immigrant and have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of Measure 110 on the Latinx community. I am writing this letter in respectful opposition to SB 1583.

Funding from Measure 110 has enabled our organization to enhance engagement, deliver more effective treatment, and establish stronger, more efficient connections to recovery services. These resources have facilitated our outreach to individuals whose voices are frequently marginalized and who have historically encountered barriers to accessing care. I have observed lives transformed as individuals gained access to compassionate, culturally responsive support.

SB 1583 threatens to destabilize these care systems by reallocating oversight and funding in ways that undermine treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services. Providers and communities have dedicated years to building trust and capacity. Proceeding with SB 1583 risks dismantling these advancements and may render recovery efforts more challenging if not unfeasible for persons seeking assistance with substance use disorder.

The state of Oregon should prioritize strengthening existing programs and enhancing coordination, rather than undoing the efforts communities have arduously established. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1583.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Luis Mendez *CADC-R*
Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad SUD Counselor
Springfield, Oregon**