

Submitter: Lynnae Hayes
On Behalf Of: Emergence
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

As a person with a Substance Use Disorder a can attest to the positive impact peer support specialists had on my recovery and my life. It was my peer mentor who sat by my side filling out custody paperwork in early recovery. It was her who just sat with me and reassured me that I could do it when I was too overwhelmed by the court papers. She never offered to do it for me. She instilled self-efficacy into me by allowing me to do it myself knowing I was not alone. It was her who sat with me as I filled out college applications. It was her who took me to WIC appointments, it was her who allowed me space to cry in her presence as I began to get honest with myself so that I could be honest with others. She is the reason I now do what I do for other people who need that same type of support. As a professional in the field I know what type of support my clients need due to my own lived experience with addiction and being a client who needs someone to lean on. I am now a CADC II and a CRM II with a college degree. I don't look back on the worst time in my life and think I got myself out or my counselor got me out of that life. I think to myself..My mentor held space for me and held my hand through the fire and we walked out together while I held my head high. Measure 110 has allowed increase one of the most vital resources, peer mentors. To lose this resource, means losing more lives then we would have. I oppose SB 1583 because harm reduction opens the door and for so many, without harm reduction, lives are lost that could have been saved. Low barrier treatment is not an end all be all but it's about removing barriers for folks until they can engage fully in treatment. Thank you for taking a moment to hear my stance on this matter.

Lynnae Hayes