

Submitter: Charles Wanke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Charles Wanke. I am a Recovery Mentor in Oregon, and I have been in recovery since 2012. I am writing in opposition to SB 1583.

Recovery has allowed me to rebuild my life in ways I once thought were impossible. Over the past 15 years, I have overcome cancer, paid off more than \$75,000 in back child support, completed college coursework in addiction studies and became a CADC I. This year I am celebrating seven years of marriage. None of that happened overnight. It happened because I had access to support, stability, and people who believed recovery was possible.

Today, I work with others who are at the beginning of that same journey. The services funded through Measure 110 — treatment, peer support, harm reduction, and deflection programs — often serve as the doorway to hope. They give people a chance to choose help instead of jail, and support instead of isolation.

SB 1583 risks destabilizing the very systems that make recovery possible. Shifting oversight and restructuring funding could create service gaps and uncertainty at a time when Oregon's behavioral health system is already under strain. The people I work with cannot afford interruptions in care or confusion about where to turn for help.

Recovery depends on consistency, trust, and a health-centered approach. I am deeply concerned this bill moves us away from that foundation and toward greater instability for both providers and the people we serve.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583 and instead focus on strengthening and improving the systems of care that communities across Oregon have worked hard to build.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Charles Wanke
Recovery Mentor
Oregon