

Submitter: Jennifer Eales  
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 Jennifer Eales, and I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1583 on behalf of SriPonya Collective, a Recovery Community Organization operating in Jefferson County, Oregon. Our work centers peer-led support for youth, people in recovery, and individuals navigating reentry — populations who are too often failed by criminal justice–driven responses to substance use.

Measure 110 has allowed Oregon to build health-centered, peer-driven systems of care that reduce harm, increase engagement in treatment, and lower long-term public costs. Through peer support, recovery navigation, and community-based services, we see people stabilize sooner, rely less on emergency rooms, avoid incarceration, and build sustainable pathways toward wellness and self-sufficiency. These outcomes are not theoretical — they are measurable reductions in healthcare, corrections, and crisis-response expenditures.

SB 1583 threatens to undo this progress by shifting Measure 110 oversight away from Oregon’s health system and toward a criminal justice–oriented structure. This shift would destabilize programs that communities have spent five years building, disrupt trusted relationships between peers and participants, and create service gaps at a time when behavioral health infrastructure remains fragile.

For youth and people in recovery or reentry, consistency matters. Peer support works because it is rooted in trust, shared experience, and continuity of care. Sudden governance and funding changes undermine that trust and increase the likelihood of relapse, crisis, and system re-entry — all of which carry significant human and fiscal costs.

Oregon does not need to abandon Measure 110’s health-based framework to improve it. The path forward is investment in data quality, accountability, and system refinement — not a return to punitive models that are more expensive and less effective. Also, peer-led recovery and community belonging is evidenced based solution to the addiction and mental health epidemic. Simply, it works. We need to give it time to continue to bear fruit. We started in 2021 as a nonprofit, and moved to Madras in 2023 to serve the community here. Jefferson County has the lowest rates for access to health care. Our Youth Drop In Center where we provide youth peer support provides a safe place for youth to talk with Youth Peer Support Specialist that have lived experience.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583 and safeguard Measure 110. Protecting peer-led, community-based systems is not only the compassionate choice — it is the fiscally responsible one.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Eales  
SriPonya Collective  
Madras, Oregon