

Submitter: Raquel Messer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1583. I am a peer counselor, and I sit every day with people who are scared, exhausted, and often one step away from giving up. For many of them, the systems built under Measure 110 are the first time they have felt treated with dignity and offered real help instead of punishment.

These relationships are fragile. Trust takes time, and once it is broken, people disappear—sometimes back to the streets, sometimes back to jail, and sometimes worse. When oversight and funding are shifted abruptly, services are disrupted and the people I work with pay the price. They don't experience this as a policy change; they experience it as another door closing.

We cannot afford to destabilize programs that are saving lives. Oregon should strengthen and improve what exists, not unravel it. I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

Thank you for considering my testimony.