

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Cheryl Sanders Sanchez. I am a peer navigator. I am also a woman in recovery. I am alive today because someone once believed I was worth saving. I strongly oppose SB 1583.

I work every day with women who are living outside, addicted, traumatized, and exhausted—but still fighting to live. I meet them at their lowest points and walk with them through detox, treatment, sober living, court dates, DHS cases, and the terrifying first steps back into stability. This is not an abstract policy to me. These are real people whose lives depend on consistency and trust.

At the Measure 110–funded stabilization home where I work, women get a bed, a shower, a hot meal, and a door that locks. Many arrive with nothing—no shoes, no clothes, no hope. I have watched women take their first sober breath in years in that house. I have watched them pass their first clean drug test, sleep through the night, laugh again, and believe they might survive this.

I have driven clients across counties to treatment because no one else would. I have helped women move into their first apartments. I have watched DHS cases close and probation end. I have seen women reunite with their children. I have seen people come in broken and leave standing.

One woman entered our program with only days sober and nothing to her name. Today, she is over a year clean, employed full-time, housed, licensed, serving in leadership at Oxford House, and working toward becoming a peer mentor. Another woman went from living on the streets with DHS involvement to sobriety, a full-time job, her own apartment, and in-home visits with her children. These lives changed because Measure 110 made this work possible.

As funding has been cut, our team has been stripped down from nine mentors to three. We are exhausted, stretched thin, and still showing up—because the women we serve have nowhere else to go. SB 1583 would take an already fragile system and fracture it further. People will fall through the cracks. Some of them will die.

Please do not undo what is saving lives. Please do not destabilize the care systems people are finally trusting. From someone who has lived this and now dedicates her life to helping others survive it—I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Sanders Sanchez  
Peer Navigator, CRM II, THW

