

Submitter: Mary MCABEE
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583
Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to SB 1538.

This bill threatens to dismantle the coordinated infrastructure that organizations like Transcending Hope and our community partners across Oregon have spent years building. These partnerships provide essential, life-saving support for individuals experiencing substance use disorders, including direct pathways to housing, safety, and long-term recovery services. These systems are working, and they are deeply needed.

My opposition to this bill is also rooted in personal experience. I am a person in long-term recovery from methamphetamine use and human trafficking. The funding at risk under SB 1538 supports one of the only transitional housing programs in Oregon specifically designed for people trying to exit lives shaped by substance, exploitation, abuse, and trauma. Without this housing, many individuals—people just like I once was—would have no safe place to go when they are finally ready to leave dangerous situations and begin healing.

These programs are not theoretical. They save lives. They create stability. They make recovery possible. Restructuring or destabilizing them would cause real harm to people who are already fighting for their survival and their future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1538 and protect the systems and supports that are helping Oregonians rebuild their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.