

Submitter: JOELLA Smith
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 to respectfully oppose SB 1583.

Measure 110 was designed as a health-based response to substance use, recognizing that treatment, recovery support, and harm reduction are most effective when grounded in public health rather than the criminal legal system. Over the past five years, providers, peers, and communities across Oregon have worked diligently to build systems of care that reflect this approach. While these systems are not perfect, they represent meaningful progress and hard-earned stability.

SB 1583 would shift oversight of Measure 110 away from Oregon's health system and toward a criminal justice-oriented structure. This change risks undermining the foundational intent of Measure 110 and destabilizing services that people across the state rely on. At a time when behavioral health funding and access are already fragile, restructuring oversight threatens to create service gaps, disrupt continuity of care, and make it more difficult for providers to deliver consistent, long-term support.

People seeking treatment and recovery services need stability, trust, and accessibility — not uncertainty. Providers need predictable systems that allow them to focus on care delivery rather than navigating constant structural changes. SB 1583 moves Oregon away from a public health framework and toward approaches that have historically failed to address substance use disorder effectively.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583 and instead support efforts that strengthen, refine, and adequately fund health-based responses to substance use. Oregon should continue investing in solutions that prioritize treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and dignity over punishment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.