

Submitter:

Juliana Clark

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

Dear Members of the Legislature,

My name is Juliana Clark, and I am a constituent writing to express my concern regarding SB 1583 and its potential impact on Oregon's behavioral health and recovery systems.

Over the past five years, Measure 110 providers, peers, and communities have worked diligently to build coordinated systems of care rooted in treatment, recovery, and public health. These systems were not created overnight. They represent hard-earned progress, collaboration, and trust among providers, individuals in recovery, and communities across the state. SB 1583 risks unraveling much of that work at a time when stability is critically needed.

I am particularly concerned that SB 1583 would disrupt established treatment and recovery programs that people rely on for continuity of care. Recovery is not linear, and consistency matters. Sudden policy shifts create service gaps that leave people without support—especially during an already fragile moment for behavioral health funding and workforce capacity.

This bill may also make it harder for providers to offer consistent, long-term care. Providers and peer-led programs need predictable systems to retain staff, maintain services, and support individuals over time. Frequent changes undermine both provider sustainability and client outcomes.

Most importantly, SB 1583 threatens to weaken Oregon's commitment to a health-based response to substance use. Measure 110 signaled a shift toward treating substance use disorder as a public health issue rather than a criminal one. Moving away from that approach risks increasing harm, stigma, and barriers to recovery—especially for people who already face systemic inequities.

As someone who cares deeply about behavioral health outcomes in our state, I urge you to consider the real-world consequences of this legislation. Please protect the systems of care that have been built, invest in improving them where needed, and avoid policy changes that would destabilize recovery services and harm the people they are meant to support.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,
Juliana Clark, PSS, CRM
Yamhill County
Peer Support Specialist and Certified Recovery Mentor