

Submitter:

Shari Zacharias

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

Measure 110 saved my life.

Before Measure 110, I was trapped in the revolving door of addiction, shame, and fear. I did not lack willpower or love for my children, I lacked clarity, safety, and access to meaningful support. Criminalization never helped me understand my substance use disorder; it only deepened my isolation and hopelessness. Measure 110 gave me something I had never truly been offered before: compassion paired with accountability, and access to support without judgment.

Through Measure 110 funded services, I was able to confront my addiction honestly and without fear of punishment. I gained clarity about the root causes of my substance use and learned that recovery is not a moral failure, it is a health journey. That shift changed everything. When you are no longer running from consequences, you can finally run toward healing.

Recovery support saved me when I could not save myself. Peer support, harm reduction, and access to treatment met me where I was, not where society thought I should be. That support kept me alive long enough to choose recovery. It reminded me that I was still worthy of care, even at my lowest point. For people who are still suffering, especially those living unhoused and actively using, this kind of support is not optional. It is essential.

Because of Measure 110, my life today looks radically different. I am in recovery. My children are back in my life full-time, and I am able to be the present, stable parent they deserve. I have rebuilt trust, purpose, and self-worth, things I once believed were lost forever.

I now serve as a Certified Recovery Mentor (CRM) and Traditional Health Worker (THW). Because Measure 110 helped save my life, I am able to go back into the community and support those who are still out there homeless, addicted, and often invisible. I share my experience, strength, and hope with people who see themselves in me. I am living proof that recovery is possible when we lead with compassion instead of punishment.

Measure 110 did not enable my addiction, it empowered my recovery. It gave me the space to grow in ways I never thought possible, and it turned my survival into service. We cannot abandon policies that save lives simply because recovery is not instant or linear. Healing takes time, support, and humanity.

Measure 110 gave me my life back. And because of that, I am helping others find theirs.