

Submitter: Shandra Shultz
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 in opposition to SB 1583. This bill would destabilize the systems of care built under Measure 110 by shifting oversight and funding in a way that disrupts treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services.

Providers and communities have spent years building capacity and trust. Abrupt structural changes make it harder to deliver consistent care and risk leaving people without the services they need.

Oregon should focus on strengthening existing programs and improving data systems — not creating instability through major governance shifts. I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

On a personal note: As an individual who has 14 years of sober recovery under my belt after spending over a decade being addicted, I personally understand how important consistency and stability is to those in recovery, especially early recovery, and to be seen as a HUMAN BEING first, not just a criminal or addict. To make this change would be to veer away from Trauma Informed Care, and to me that is being ANTI-HUMAN . We as a nation have an epidemic of addiction, which is a disease not a moral failing, and to stigmatize that by shifting to a criminal justice model would be cruel and unusual punishment. While some addiction can lead to criminal activity, at its root cause is most often trauma, which is destabilizing in and of itself, and those in addiction are just trying to get their needs met in a society that sees them as a blight. I have spent the last 5 years of my life dedicated to bring healing and peace to those who are suffering, most recently by serving the community in the inner city, as a SUD Counselor. My clients would also be negatively impacted by this change and some may not end up being able to see long term recovery in the ways I have, should changes like what is being proposed be passed. We are not statistics or objects to be used for political fetter, rather it is time to see that the issue runs much deeper than the surface and it is time to heal the root, not rip it up and through it away like trash, which is exactly what this proposed change will due, treat those who are hurting like trash to be thrown out. We already see what policing has done to most in recovery and society as a whole and it isn't a good thing.

Thank you for considering my testimony.