

Submitter: Mark Whitson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,
As a former educator who has worked with the juvenile justice system I have witnessed what works and what doesn't.
Science based treatment programs work much better than the punitive policing models which fail repeatedly.
This is personal. I have witnessed kids and adults both fail (die), and succeed in reclaiming their lives. Those who have reclaimed their lives have one thing in common: access to non punitive treatment, housing, counseling and care. Those who are no longer with us or are stuck in the hole, the rotating resource wasteland of jail, back to street, jail, crime, etc. fail.
Republican policies continue to fail our people.
Also, programs like Cahoots, The Pathfinder Network, and White Bird to name a few are directly improving outcomes on a daily basis.
I oppose SB 1583. And I hope you do too.
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.
Thank you for considering my testimony.
Mark???????