

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

My name is Sara Barger, and I am a Mental Health Provider at 4D Recovery, where I have the privilege of providing direct care to individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. I am also a person in long-term recovery. I am writing in opposition to SB 1583.

In addition to my current clinical role, I previously served as Director of Public Affairs and Relations at 4D Recovery. Through both direct service delivery and systems-level policy work, I understand the real and lasting impact this bill would have if passed. SB 1583 would destabilize the systems of care built under Measure 110 by shifting oversight and funding in ways that disrupt treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services.

Behavioral health providers — in collaboration with county behavioral health, public health, and public safety departments — have spent years building capacity, trust, and effective service models across Oregon. These systems are working. Many lives have been changed, and many lives have been saved, through direct investment in recovery organizations that understand, through both lived and professional experience, what people need to overcome addiction and rebuild their lives.

Every day, I see what recovery makes possible. People reunite with their families, return to school, gain employment, secure housing, and rediscover hope and purpose. Recovery allows people not just to survive, but to live again.

Disrupting this progress would be a profound mistake. It is far more effective — and far less costly — to invest in a stable continuum of care than to continue pouring resources into emergency rooms, the criminal legal system, and first responders, all of which are already strained by untreated substance use disorders. Addiction is a disease, and it requires sustained, community-based investment from BH professionals and organizations that understand — not instability and fragmentation.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583 and to continue supporting the infrastructure that is already improving health outcomes and strengthening communities across Oregon.

I appreciate the hard work each of you do at the Oregon Legislature to improve the lives and health of Oregonians. Let this be one of those moments.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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