

Submitter:

Kara Butler

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

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 ways that disrupt treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services. Providers and communities across Oregon have spent years building capacity, infrastructure, and trust. Abrupt structural changes risk undoing that work, making it harder to deliver consistent care and leaving people without timely access to life-saving services.

I have personally lost several family members to substance use while they were waiting for a treatment bed to open or a phone call back from a referring agency. Since the inception of Measure 110, I have also witnessed many lives saved by organizations that once had waitlists out the door. Harm reduction supplies have saved countless lives by reversing overdoses and keeping people safe while waiting for treatment beds or while accessing resources. These life-saving supplies have been amplified through Measure 110 providers, making it possible to get them into communities that previously had little to no access, especially in rural areas. Measure 110 has also allowed us to provide more comprehensive services for youth, services that simply did not exist before.

I have heard community members say they do not know what they would have done without a peer support specialist to guide them through the process. Peers are the backbone of Measure 110. They support people in real time by helping them navigate resources and referrals, stay engaged while waiting for treatment, and physically make it to their appointments. Instead of sitting on a waitlist hoping today is the day they get the call, people receive support that meets them where they are, walks alongside them, and empowers them to keep moving toward their goals.

SB 1583 would take Oregon backward at a time when we cannot afford to lose ground. If we truly care about the people in our state, we should be strengthening existing programs, improving data systems, and supporting the workforce that is already saving lives, not creating instability through major governance shifts.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

Respectfully,
Kara Butler