



Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Seraphina Pinsky. I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 1583.

I am a person in long-term recovery and serve as the Tri-County Coordinator for Max's Mission, a nonprofit organization providing overdose prevention, risk reduction, and community-based public health services across three counties. I also bring lived experience shaped by the loss of my eldest brother and many friends to the disease of addiction. These experiences inform both my professional role and my opposition to this bill.

SB 1583 proposes transferring the duties of the Oversight and Accountability Council to a newly established Behavioral Health and Deflection Committee within the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. While coordination and accountability are important, this shift raises serious concerns about the continued centering of public health, Risk reduction, and community-led expertise within behavioral health policy and funding decisions. Health care must remain within the oversight of OHA, the professionals within this field.

Behavioral health systems, including Behavioral Health Resource Networks, were intentionally designed to operate through a public health framework not a criminal justice one. Moving oversight and grant administration into a criminal justice body risks reframing substance use and recovery through enforcement rather than care, prevention, and dignity. This shift may also marginalize the voices of people with lived experience and frontline providers who are essential to effective, responsive systems.

Through my work with Max's Mission, I see every day how risk reduction services stabilize individuals, families, and entire communities. Oregon already has far more people seeking treatment than available beds. Undermining or reframing these services within a criminal justice context does not close that gap it widens it.

As someone in long-term recovery, I know that people do not heal through punishment, reclassification, or bureaucratic restructuring. They heal through access, trust, and systems that meet them where they are. Policies that distance behavioral health from public health principles move us backward at a time when lives are at stake.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1583 and instead strengthen policies that keep behavioral health oversight grounded in public health, evidence-based practice, and lived experience leadership.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Seraphina Pinsky
Tri-County Coordinator, Max's Mission
Person in long-term recovery
Oregon

