

Submitter: Ben Spence
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 ways that disrupt 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 be focused on strengthening existing programs and improving data systems—not creating instability through major governance shifts. I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

I am a person in long-term recovery with personal experience in the criminal justice system, and I currently serve as a Program Manager for the Addictions Recovery Center (ARC) in Medford. I helped develop ARC's pre-engagement outreach and drop-in services, all of which were made possible through Measure 110 funding. These services allow us to reach people in rural communities, individuals experiencing houselessness, and incarcerated individuals who are often not eligible for traditional substance use disorder services.

Measure 110 funding also allows us to serve individuals who do not yet qualify for Medicaid or do not have coverage at all. At ARC, we believe that treatment starts the minute someone walks through the door—what we call "Treatment Starts Now." When someone finds the courage to say, "I'm ready for treatment," we want to begin that journey immediately. Because of Measure 110, we can do exactly that by offering peer support, drop-in CADC groups, and a welcoming, low-barrier space where people can begin making recovery decisions right away.

Disrupting this funding and oversight structure threatens these life-saving, evidence-based services and the people who rely on them. Stability matters—for providers, for communities, and most importantly, for individuals seeking recovery.

Thank you for considering my testimony.