

Submitter:

D. A.

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 a way that disrupts treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services. This is something that you should have done in the beginning but didn't because you lack foresight. You forced us all to figure out a system that can work as best it can, instead of putting in the time and effort to actually design a system that would work smoothly for everyone.

I work in this system. I hear stories every day from people who WANT to get clean or sober or find housing or get off the street but who CAN'T because there aren't enough beds or treatment centers or safe ways for them to do these things. Instead of using your energy to change this incredibly delicate, stretched-thin system, put your energy into actually filling the gaps in care. How many empty buildings are there in the Portland-Metro area? How many beds could you fit in there? My nonprofit is serving more than 700 individuals across two counties with a direct service team of only 16. ACROSS TWO COUNTIES. How many more staff could my team hire with the money you're about to spend on this change?

Providers and communities have spent years building capacity and trust with Oregonians that have been discarded. These people gave up on you, their leaders, because you kept putting princess Band-Aids on a gaping wound. The solution is to strengthen existing programs, invest in ACTUAL access to care, and improve data systems, but instead you're choosing to put on another Band-aid and hope it will fix it. You should focus on making what we've built stronger, not destabilizing it with a new line of red tape that won't be placed in the best interest of the people it's actually meant to serve.

Oppose SB 1583.

Thank you for considering my testimony.