

Submitter: Michala Gonzales
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583
Subject: Concerns Regarding SB 1583 – Public Safety and System Stability Impacts

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Michala and I am writing as a Peer Support Specialist and Oregon community member to share serious concerns regarding SB 1583 and its proposed restructuring of Measure 110 funding and oversight.

Over the past five years, Measure 110 providers, peers, and community partners have worked to build coordinated systems of care that reduce harm, support recovery, and divert people away from deeper involvement in the criminal justice system. In my role as a peer, I work directly with individuals who are navigating substance use, mental health challenges, and frequent contact with law enforcement, emergency departments, and courts. I see firsthand how stable, health-based services improve outcomes not only for individuals, but for public safety systems as a whole.

SB 1583 would move oversight of Measure 110 away from Oregon's health system and toward a criminal justice-oriented structure. From both a public safety and systems perspective, this shift raises significant concerns. Sudden changes to oversight risk disrupting established treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection programs that currently help reduce emergency calls, hospital utilization, and repeated justice system involvement.

When people lose access to consistent care, the consequences are felt across systems: increased emergency department visits, higher rates of crisis response, and greater strain on courts, jails, and law enforcement. Health-based oversight allows programs to focus on stabilization, engagement, and long-term outcomes—key factors in reducing recidivism and improving community safety.

Peers and providers have spent years building trust with participants who are often wary of systems tied to punishment or surveillance. Shifting Measure 110 into a justice-centered framework risks undermining that trust, making it harder to engage people early and increasing the likelihood of crisis-driven or enforcement-based responses.

Measure 110 was designed to function as a preventative and deflection-oriented approach—one that supports public safety by addressing substance use through

evidence-based care rather than reactive enforcement. Maintaining health-centered oversight supports collaboration across systems while preserving the integrity and effectiveness of services already in place.

I respectfully urge the Committee to consider the downstream impacts SB 1583 could have on courts, law enforcement, and emergency systems, as well as on the individuals and families relying on these programs. Preserving Measure 110's health-based framework is critical to maintaining stability, accountability, and public safety across Oregon.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to solutions that support both community well-being and system effectiveness.

Sincerely,
Michala G
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