

Submitter:

Kate Greenwood

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

I helped create the program at my agency with M110 funds. I am now the supervisor and have seen such powerful experiences of people coming into our services, choosing to make changes in their lives, and often entering recovery because they felt ready for it and had the support to make it happen. We have been able to help clients get the resources they need, which can include treatment, housing, food, employment, and education. Some of them have chosen to stay in long-term services (switching to using insurance funds) for sobriety and mental health, because they started with the program using M110 funding, and were ready for the next steps. I have also seen multiple of these clients decide to give back to this field and become mentors, counselors, or start working through school to become eventual therapists. We are impacting individual lives as well as impacting our community in a positive way. We are creating powerful shifts, it is just that this takes time and money. I think focusing on "punishment" via the criminal justice only lens would not have the same effect. We are inviting people to come in and make changes, and when they are truly ready to do that, they do, and it's powerful to watch and be part of. Thank you for your time and consideration.