

Submitter: Carole Prechtel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

I urge you to vote no on SB 1538.

Why this bill is not good for public health:

Shifting the Framework: This bill risks moving behavioral health and recovery systems away from a public health model and into a criminal justice framework.

Lived Experience at Risk: BHRNs were built to be community-led and informed by those with lived experience. Moving oversight to a criminal justice-aligned commission threatens the "by peers, for peers" foundation that makes their work effective.

Professional Autonomy: As peers, we know that recovery thrives in community-based, non-judgmental spaces. Placing our funding and governance under a criminal justice umbrella creates barriers for the very people we serve and complicates the role of the Peer Support Specialist.

I work as a Community Health Consultant across the state and work directly with and for Traditional Health Worker Peer Support Specialists. This would adversely impact those who work with or are members in our community suffering from Substance Use Disorder.

Thank you,
Carrie Prechtel
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