

Submitter: Deforrest Jackson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1583.

I currently serve as the Director of Substance Use Services at New Avenues for Youth in Portland, where I oversee programs funded through Measure 110 that provide harm reduction, treatment access, peer support, and recovery services to youth experiencing housing instability and substance use challenges.

Over the past several years, providers like us have worked tirelessly to build the systems of care envisioned under Measure 110. We have built staffing models, partnerships, referral pathways, data reporting systems, and—most importantly—trust with the young people and communities we serve.

SB 1583 would destabilize that work by shifting oversight and funding structures in a way that creates uncertainty, interrupts continuity of care, and risks dismantling systems that are finally functioning as intended.

These are not theoretical concerns. When funding structures and governance change abruptly, it directly affects whether people can access services, whether providers can retain staff, and whether vulnerable community members fall through the cracks.

As both a provider and a person in recovery, I know firsthand how critical stability in services and relationships is. Recovery, treatment, and harm reduction are built on trust and consistency. Disrupting the infrastructure that supports this work puts lives at risk.

Oregon should be focused on strengthening and improving the existing systems created under Measure 110 — refining data systems, addressing gaps, and supporting providers — rather than creating instability through major structural changes.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

DeForrest K. Jackson  
Director of Substance Use Services  
New Avenues for Youth