

Submitter: Drew Farmer
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

I am writing to support SB 1583. It has been clearly demonstrated that, under the present model, the funds have been poorly managed and tracked. The original implementor, Angela Carter, noted in her resignation letter that OHA was blocking her from hiring necessary staff, they instigated the mismanagement of funds, and they did not provide support where needed to address the consequences of their own actions. My personal experience with OHA over the past seven months has included incidences of seeing their staff thrown under the bus following failed attempts by the state to force state hospital liabilities onto counties and having interacted with staff that had either been poorly informed by their chain of command or were deliberately lying to me. If Measure 110 is to be effective, the oversight authority must change.

I understand that 'data' will be provided in support of the outcomes of the existing methodology. I can say from direct knowledge in updates previously as a city councilor and now as a commissioner, that data is tailored. Agencies that barely received M110 funds had their data used to support it and agencies that received it in a previous cycle had their data used to support the ongoing nature of the program. No matter how much outreach the data shows, the fact will remain that Oregon doesn't have an adequate number of sobering beds to meet demand - there had never been a time where Coos Health and Wellness had a deficit of folks wanting to get sober even before Measure 110, let alone after. Funds are being flooded into outreach systems without down-stream solutions that could instead be funded by Measure 110 dollars. Oversight and accountability must change.

Thank you,

Drew Farmer
Coos County Commissioner