

Submitter:

Nikki Vann

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to proposals that would reallocate Oregon Measure 110 funds away from substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and housing services.

I am a person in long-term recovery. Without access to treatment funded through Measure 110 and without Oregon Health Plan (OHP) insurance covering evidence-based SUD services, I would not be alive today—let alone stable, housed, and employed. Treatment made my recovery possible.

I now work as a case manager at a homeless youth and young adult shelter. Every day, I witness firsthand what this funding actually does. I see young people who have experienced trauma, homelessness, and substance use disorders gain access to treatment, peer support, mental health care, and stable housing. With these supports, I have watched them return to school, secure employment, reconnect with family, and build lives they once believed were out of reach.

Reallocating Measure 110 funds back into the criminal justice commission would reverse this progress. Criminalization did not work before Measure 110, and it will not work now. Arrests, incarceration, and court involvement destabilize people who are already vulnerable, increase barriers to housing and employment, and ultimately cost taxpayers more while producing worse outcomes.

Measure 110 represents a shift toward treating substance use as a public health issue rather than a moral or criminal failure. That shift saves lives. Treatment and housing services reduce overdoses, emergency room utilization, and recidivism. They create safer communities by addressing the root causes of substance use rather than cycling people through jails that are ill-equipped to provide recovery-oriented care.

I understand the frustration many Oregonians feel when they see unmet needs and slow system implementation. The answer, however, is not to abandon a public health approach—it is to improve it. The solution is better coordination, accountability, and expansion of treatment and housing services, not defunding them.

As both someone who has personally relied on these services and a professional who works daily with young people whose lives depend on them, I urge you to oppose any reallocation of Measure 110 funds away from SUD treatment and housing. These funds are not abstract line items—they are lifelines.

Please choose compassion, evidence, and long-term community safety over a return to policies that have already failed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.