

February 4, 2026 12:45 pm

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing *urgently* in opposition to SB 1583. This bill would destabilize the systems of care built under Measure 110 by shifting oversight and funding in a way that disrupts treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services.

Providers and communities have spent years building capacity and trust. Abrupt structural changes make it harder to deliver consistent care and risk leaving people without the services they need. *As both a licensed clinical social worker and parent of a child who experienced substance use disorder (SUD) in Multnomah County, I cannot overstate the harm this would cause individuals and families in our community – not to mention all the other systems they touch.*

*As a parent, I witnessed first-hand the lifesaving support provided by peers when my daughter was in active addiction. For her, peers were the rungs of the ladder that helped pull her out of a hole that was leading her towards a catastrophic outcome.*

*As a provider, I've seen adolescents rediscover their strengths, cultivate prosocial relationships, set and achieve goals, and find purpose in helping others by connecting with youth-serving SUD programs in our community. The needs of adolescents are especially unique because their brains are not fully developed. Their healing journeys are contingent upon trusting relationships with providers and peers. The same can be said about the families of adolescents and young adults. Without adequate support, families (parents, siblings, etc.) are at risk of developing stress-related physical and mental health conditions as well.*

*For too long, Oregon has ranked at the bottom for access to treatment services. We cannot undermine the incremental progress that has been achieved (or is on the cusp of being achieved) by shifting gears now. (I can't believe I'm even pleading with you about this given how precarious our behavioral health system of care has been over the past several years.)*

Oregon should focus on strengthening existing programs and improving data systems — not creating instability through major governance shifts. I urge you to oppose SB 1583.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Meggan McEvoy