

Submitter:

Mason Weems

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1583

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Mason Weems, I am a recovery peer support specialist with a focus on adolescent care, as well as a member of the BHRN Oversight and Accountability Council in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority.

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 1583. This bill would destabilize the systems of care built under Measure 110. The proposed amendments will do serious longterm harm that will disrupt treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services. As both a person with professional experience in providing and lived experience receiving these resources, and as a person who has worked in healthcare since before the BHRNs went into place, and as a member of the Oversight and Accountability Council, I feel uniquely placed to provide testimony that the changes language of this bill will make it harder to receive services, and harder for our states providers to maintain the good work that they are already doing. Behavioral Health Providers and recovery communities have spent years building capacity and trust. These changes in oversight and language, and implementation make it harder to deliver consistent care and risk leaving people without the services they need. The recent audit conducted by the office of the Secretary of State spoke explicitly against the legislature enacting further changes to BHRN programming, in order for the services that have been built to execute their directives effectively, and without need for further adjustment due to outside tampering.

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,
Mason Weems