

Submitter: Nora Foster
On Behalf Of: Lutheran Community Services NW
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1583

At Lutheran Community Services Northwest, we are deeply concerned about the impacts SB 1583 would have on the people and communities we serve. The bill would upend the system of care created under Measure 110 by shifting oversight and funding in ways that interrupt treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and deflection services across Oregon. reduction, and deflection services across Oregon.

Over the past several years, providers and community partners have invested significant effort in building capacity, trust, and stable relationships with clients. Sudden structural changes threaten that progress and make it harder for people—especially those in crisis—to reliably access care. Instead of creating instability through major governance changes, Oregon should focus on strengthening the programs already in place and improving data systems so the positive momentum can continue.

Our organization's perspective is also shaped by our 30 years of providing SUD services and the lived experience of many staff and community members. Access to timely services can change the course of a person's life, and Measure 110 has helped create openings that didn't exist before.

As an agency that serves both urban and rural marginalized communities, including refugees and immigrants, we have seen how Measure 110 resources help people who often face the steepest barriers to accessing behavioral health care. Many of the programs built with this funding are the first culturally responsive or language accessible services these communities have ever had access to. Shifting this work into a criminal justice-led structure—where trust is already low due to past experiences with government or law enforcement systems—would make it far harder for people to seek help when they need it.

Measure 110 wasn't perfect at launch, but the state has since made meaningful course corrections through updated OHA guidance and a redesigned BHRN committee structure. These improvements deserve the chance to take root. We should be building on what is working—not dismantling the foundation just as it begins to stabilize.

For these reasons, LCSNW urges you to oppose SB 1583.

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