

Submitter: Aje Amaechi  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1065

Dear Committee members and Members of Senate,

I am honored to provide my testimony in support of SB1065 and its critical role in addressing substance use and addiction in our society. As a representative of Freedom to Thrive, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a world where safety means investment in people and planet and an end to the punishment-based criminal and immigration systems, I fully endorse this bill.

We understand the importance of comprehensive, public health approaches to addiction recovery, and SB1065 represents a significant step towards addressing substance use and addiction as a public health issue, rather than a criminal issue. The establishment of a legal process for individuals to set aside qualifying prior convictions related to controlled substance possession is an essential move towards reforming our criminal justice system and ending the stigma against people who use drugs (PWUD).

By recognizing addiction as a health issue rather than a moral failing, we can begin to treat PWUD with the respect and dignity they deserve. This is crucial to expanding evidence-based treatment for all forms of substance use disorder (SUD), which research has shown to be the most effective approach to addressing addiction.

As an organization dedicated to creating a more just and equitable society, we support SB1065 and the principles of compassion, evidence-based treatment, and criminal justice reform that it embodies. We urge all lawmakers to vote in favor of this bill and work towards building a world where safety means investing in people and the planet, and where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Aje Amaechi