

Testimony SUPPORTING SB 1065
Submitted by Oregon Recovers
March 21, 2023
Senate Committee On Judiciary

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the
Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Solara Salazar, and I am the owner and Executive Director of Cielo Treatment Center. I also serve as the Treasurer of Oregon Recovers. We are a movement of people in recovery from addiction with the mission to transform Oregon's fractured and incomplete addiction recovery system into a recovery-based, continuum of care which recognizes addiction as a chronic disease.

So, a little more about my background: I have a master's degree in business as well as a bachelor's degree in mental health. I graduated at the top of my class. I am a business owner and a homeowner here in Multnomah County. I have an amazing husband and wonderful kids. I pay taxes, I work hard. I volunteer at my local church.

What many people don't know about me is that I have a drug charge on my record: possession of methamphetamine. I have a long history as a methamphetamine and fentanyl addict. I spent many years of my life in and out of jails and rehabs, before finally finding long term recovery 16 years ago.

When I first got clean, due to my criminal record and drug charge, no one would hire me or let me rent an apartment. I remember living in a motel off of N Interstate Blvd in Portland and trying to survive with two little kids and \$50 to my name.

Luckily, I had a few things going for me. I'm white, educated, and I had middle class family members that were willing to co-sign on an apartment for me. If it wasn't for this family support, I would not be here today with all my success and accolades. So, I am here to testify for the thousands like me who are in recovery but do not have my privileges, of both skin color, education, and family background. I am here to advocate for those who haven't found their voice yet but deserve a second chance. I am here to implore you to vote for Senate Bill 1065.