

Submitter: June Yu

On Behalf Of: Family

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: SB1555

As an educator and mother, I am in full support for Bill 4036 and 1555, which create crimes for the possession and using a controlled substance in public. I am proud that our two teenagers are right next to me this very moment, having following this meeting from the beginning as I testify.

The reason cannot be simpler, it is what we teach children at school and home each day ---- good choices and behaviors are recognized and encouraged, bad ones have consequences, even punishment.

Here are my two proposals :

One :

Like many of fellow peers in my generation, we have been feeling the increasing pressure in raising, educating, even protecting our offsprings from unfiltered information from social media on many social issues, including substance use. Just in the last year alone, I have witnessed 3rd graders raising face-to-face questions to a visiting sheriff on Fintanyl situation in the street of Portland.

Currently, our school system starts to teach bits of information on controlled substance from 6th grade. It is simply Too Late. Schools are the frontline in planting seeds and the seeds need to be planted much earlier, at elementary school level to have official prevention based syllabus in place, to empower the young students and their families to make rational, informed choices going forward.

Two:

A 2022 study from the Rutgers Addiction Research Center in New Jersey, led by Danielle Dick, a professor of psychiatry at the school, has spent decades hunting genes that contribute to drug and alcohol addiction. He has found out that alcohol addiction is about 50 percent heritable, while drug addiction is as much as 70 percent heritable.

Another study done by the same Center measured how well the best current polygenic scores, combined with environmental risk factors, predicted substance use disorders in 15,000 people who participated in long-term studies. The result was, people with the highest levels of risk were four times more likely to develop a substance use disorder than people with the lowest levels of risks.

Our current tolerating societal environment is creating a perfect storm for a more

severe and concerning tomorrow :
uninformed perspective parent candidates who may have been toxicated yet may or may not have gone through treatments;
an abundance of readily available drugs for youngsters who are already born with much higher risks for addiction genetically.

Children are historically proven to be vulnerably more prone to additions of most kinds. If no action or measurement were taken today, these future generations with inherited genes to addiction from womb, stand even a smaller chance of living a normal, healthy, fulfilled life as productive and contributing members for our country. Blood screening for perspective parents based on planned parenthood, blood screening for pregnant individuals should be implemented to offer timely intervention and support for recovery as needed, for the sake of health for both the newborns and the parents.