

Submitter: Michael Nolan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,?

My child attends Cathedral School in Northwest Portland. I support SB 1573 and urge you to pass it. Because right now, our children are being exposed to things no child should ever have to see.?

I support harm reduction when it's done responsibly. But what is happening outside my child's school is not responsible. It is reckless, dangerous, and entirely unacceptable. Every week, groups come near our school to distribute needles, crack pipes, and other drug paraphernalia. These materials are left in plain sight on sidewalks, near playgrounds, and along routes children walk every day.?

Addicts loiter openly. Some are passed out. Others are openly using or selling drugs. Our kids see it. Parents see it. Families trying to drop off or pick up their children are confronted with this chaos. This is not a lesson in compassion; it's a lesson in danger.?

No child should have to walk past used needles, passed-out adults, or open drug dealing just to get to class. No parent should have to worry that their child might encounter a discarded syringe while waiting for pickup. And yet, this is happening every single day in our neighborhood.?

This environment does more than expose children to danger. It normalizes it. It tells people struggling with addiction that school zones are safe places to use and sell drugs. And it tells children that this level of chaos and risk is acceptable. It is not.?

SB 1573 is simple, practical, and necessary: No mobile syringe or drug paraphernalia operations within 2,000 feet of a school or daycare, with real consequences for violations. It is a basic safeguard that should be non-negotiable.?

Please Please Please take action and pass this bill. Protect our children. Protect our families. They deserve to walk to school and be dropped off safely — without needles, without drugs, without drug dealing and danger in plain sight.

Thank you.