

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a longtime NW Portland resident and the Republican candidate for Oregon House District 33 in 2026. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1573, which prohibits mobile and temporary syringe service programs from operating within 2,000 feet of any school or licensed child care facility.

As a candidate focused on public safety and working-class affordability, I hear every day from families in Portland who are exhausted by discarded needles in parks, sidewalks, and near schools. Parents should not have to worry whether their child will step on a used syringe while playing outside or walking to school. This is not a theoretical concern — it is the daily reality in many Portland neighborhoods after years of unchecked open drug use and inadequate management of harm-reduction programs.

SB 1573 is a reasonable, targeted solution. It does not ban syringe service programs; it simply requires mobile and temporary operations to maintain a safe distance from places where children gather daily. The bill's private right of action — allowing affected individuals to seek damages and attorney fees — adds real accountability and empowers communities when programs violate the rule.

This is common-sense governance. We can support evidence-based public health measures while also protecting the safety and peace of mind of Oregon's children and families. Portland's working-class neighborhoods deserve both effective harm reduction and safe public spaces. I urge the committee to advance SB 1573. Oregon families have waited long enough for basic protections.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Ciatta Thompson
Candidate for Oregon House District 33
NW Portland