

Submitter: Joshua King

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

I am a lawyer who has worked for multiple federal judges and taught constitutional law to doctors in a psychiatric forensic fellowship. Please pass this Bill. It is a bare minimum, common sense step towards sanity.

It says everything about what is wrong with Portland, my favorite city in the world, that this Bill is necessary. Kids from several schools, including the newest high school in Portland, walk past people shooting up and crapping on themselves every single school day. I have witnessed both on numerous occasions. When you see these kids, many are stunned, but worryingly, many have normalized what they see. People slumped over, looking blue, dead or not. People shooting up and tossing the needles on wheelchair ramps for disabled kids. People literally crapping themselves as they congregate waiting for more needles. I travel all over and this is just insane.

I strongly believe in a thoughtful, regulated, clean syringe program. But no program should give out syringes in front of elementary schools. It's embarrassing and shameful that we even have to have this discussion.