

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

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 1573. By limiting lifesaving mobile syringe exchange service areas, we will leave individuals vulnerable to disease exposure. Oregon currently has the third highest rate of Hepatitis C related deaths in the United States. This disease is mainly spread through injection drug use. Without services such as syringe exchanges operating throughout the city, we will only augment our HCV prevalence which will in turn pressurize an already exhausted healthcare system. This will negatively cost our community, our healthcare teams, and our state as a whole.

Additionally, while power lies in community members' hands and calls to action are important social movements, I fear the open opportunity for individuals to enact civil lawsuits against syringe exchanges will only cause service providers to crumble. There is important nuance to providing syringe exchange services that outsiders may not understand or care to learn. This ignorance could be detrimental to services which is not in the best interest of all of the dedicated work, research, science, and funding put towards supporting our most marginalized community members.

I urge you to reconsider suppressing these lifesaving community resources and stop the enactment of Senate Bill 1573.

Do what's right- vote in opposition. Your community and your precious seat depends on it. Don't worry, you can be voted out. Power to the people.

Lauren

State of Oregon Resident