

February 4, 2026
SB 1573

To Whom it May Concern:

SB 1573 jeopardizes access to a critical, evidence-based disease prevention service. Syringe Services are proven to reduce discarded syringes, prevent disease and overdose and engagement in syringe exchange programs leads to higher engagement in drug treatment and recovery services.

SB 1573 restricts placement of sites by requiring them to be 2,000 feet from a school or childcare facility. While HIV Alliance always seeks sites that are private and do not place a burden on neighbors, this would be challenging in rural communities. The requirement may make the service inaccessible to rural residents. Syringe exchange services are proven to prevent HIV/HCV and overdose; therefore, loss of sites in rural communities is likely to increase the burden of substance those communities face. In addition, loss of SSP in rural locations will likely result in an increase of discarded syringes. In many communities, mobile SSP is the only resource for safe disposal of syringes.

We are not aware of reported issues related to the location of SSP in the communities where we operate. We encourage open dialogue about any verified incidents related to SSP location and advocate for a community-based approach to placement of sites rather than the state telling communities where to place sites. HIVA has been providing SSP services for over 20 years. In our experience, each community is different and has different needs, and SSP providers and communities benefit from active engagement with local law enforcement and local county and city leadership. This is what results in safe placement of critical public health services.

While it is obvious where schools are located, it is less obvious where licensed day care providers are located. This bill does not provide a path or opportunity for SSP providers to know the location of all childcare facilities. It places a burden on the SSP provider that is unreasonable. Some of our sites have existed for over a decade. If a childcare opened a facility 6 blocks from our currently operating site, it is unclear how a SSP would have to respond to that.

HIV Alliance carefully sites our SSP services, often with community partners such as faith-based organizations and public health. We also manage sharps drop box locations for communities that allow everyone, including those using syringes medically



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1195 City View Street, Eugene, OR 97402
541-342-5088 | hivalliance.org

to safely discard their syringes. We actively monitor our sites to ensure there are no discarded supplies.

We are open to reasonable actions to reduce discarded syringes, such as adequate funding for SSP staffing, placement of publicly accessible drop boxes, and requirements for SSP providers to ensure that safe disposal policies are in place.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee Yandel".

Renee Yandel
Executive Director