

Submitter: Melissa Sherwood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

Dear Legislators:

SB1573 would dramatically harm Oregonians across the state but particularly in small, rural communities. 2000 feet may not seem like much in Portland or Salem but in a place like Drain, it's a big chunk of the community.

Harm reduction teams work to meet people where they are. Their syringe exchange programs are vital to the health and welfare of the entire community. Not only do these programs help prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis, they protect communities by collecting used syringes that might otherwise be discarded. Discarded used syringes provide a huge infection risk for any unknowing or unsuspecting person who come into accidental contact with the syringe.

Why would the state want to hamstring this work? Why would the state want to make collecting used syringes HARDER?

This bill will NOT make our communities safer. It will do the opposite. This bill will make everyone less safe.

I strongly oppose SB1573 and urge you to vote against this harmful legislation.

Melissa Sherwood
Roseburg