



**STABBIN' WAGON**  
Harm Reduction Non-Profit

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SB 1573

To Whom It May Concern:

SB 1573 poses an existential threat to the provision of life-saving public health services. Syringe services are evidence-based interventions shown to reduce overdoses, prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and increase the rates at which drug users receive treatment for substance use disorders.

By imposing 2000-foot buffer zones around schools and childcare facilities, SB 1573 creates overlapping circles that make it nearly impossible to provide harm reduction services in substantial portions of urban areas. As these areas are among the most severely impacted by overdose-related mortality, they are likely to experience a corresponding rise in overdose-related deaths and in rates of infectious disease if this bill becomes law.

Research on similar restrictions on the provision of syringe service programs within 1000 feet of schools and on laws that impose sentencing enhancements on drug crimes within 1000 feet of schools has shown that these laws disproportionately harm poor communities and communities of color. With this research in mind, it is likely that SB 1573 would increase rates of overdose-related death and the spread of infectious disease in marginalized communities.

In addition to the odious burdens imposed on syringe service providers by the 2000-foot buffer zone, the provision that allows anyone to bring a cause of action against a syringe service provider they believe is operating within the 2000-foot buffer zone is unreasonable. By creating a legal presumption that any discarded syringe found within the 2000-foot buffer zone was discarded by a syringe service program in violation of the law, the legislature burdens already underfunded syringe service providers with costly litigation. Anyone who disagrees with the cause of harm reduction may easily concoct such a situation to deplete resources from syringe service providers.

Preliminary data show that the death rate from accidental overdose is down compared with the data available in 2024. This is largely due to the hard work of harm reduction providers in Oregon. SB 1573 is poised to undo that progress. Legislators should vote against this legislation if they value the lives of Oregonians.

Thank You,

*Derek Nelson*

Derek Nelson

Director of Peer Services

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