

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

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Kirrer, and my child attends Cathedral School in Northwest Portland. I am here to support SB 1573 and ask that you pass this bill to protect our children and community.

I am not here to argue against harm reduction. I believe in helping people. But what is happening outside my child's school is not "help"—it is reckless and dangerous enabling, and it is happening in plain view of our students.

For a long time, we wondered why our neighborhood was constantly filled with drug dealers, people overdosing on sidewalks, and grounds littered with needles, tin foil, and glass pipes. We discovered that every Friday, a group comes just two blocks from the school to distribute drug supplies.

The message this sends—beyond just enabling the addiction—is a magnet effect. These distribution sites cause users to loiter in the immediate area, which in turn attracts open drug dealing and active use. When we pleaded with local officials for help, we were told there was nothing they could do because there were no laws to enforce.

Because of this lack of guardrails, this is what my child sees every day:

? A Minefield of Paraphernalia: Discarded needles and crack pipes on the sidewalks where kids walk, bike, and wait for pickup.

? Open Drug Use and Dealing: People loitering, passed out, or openly selling drugs just steps from the classroom.

? A Dangerous Message: This environment tells people struggling with addiction that school zones are "safe zones" to use and sell. Simultaneously, it tells our children that this level of chaos is "normal." It is not normal.

No child should have to witness open drug dealing or walk past drugged-out, unconscious adults while trying to get an education. No middle-schooler should be harassed by an intoxicated individual while walking into school.

We are asking for a simple, practical rule: No mobile syringe or drug paraphernalia operations within 2,000 feet of a school or daycare, with real civil consequences for those who break the law.

We must stop harm displacement. If harm reduction is necessary, it should not be located next to a school. Please pass SB 1573 so our kids can attend school without fear or unintended consequences.

There have been numerous instances where my 3 kids have witnessed someone shooting up or standing like a "zombie" in the crosswalk ripped on fentanyl --- this has to stop!

Thank you,

Jason Kirrer / NW Portland / 97210