

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

Please limit needle distribution in Oregon. Distribution of needles should only be in spaces far from schools and places children gather. Furthermore, needle distribution should only happen in conjunction with social service and law enforcement support such that the recipients are offered help and to prevent creating public drug use/sale centers. My children attend Lincoln High School and, over the years, I have witnessed many incidents of public drug use (injecting openly one block north of Lincoln - last week) and encountered used needles close to the school. My children have witnesses: a body being placed in a body bag, open drug use - smoking and injecting, violent outbursts on public transportation, and open defecation. Of course, the people who suffer the most are the users. Dropping off needles with no extra support or public law enforcement erodes public empathy and does little to change the lives of those lined up to get the clean needles and nothing more. I am not opposed to "safe use" centers and measures, just those that result in the mayhem I routinely witness near Lincoln High School.