

Submitter: Beth Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

February 5, 2026

Letter OPPOSING OR Senate Bill 1573

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the committee:

I am an addiction medicine nurse practitioner at OHSU. I provide specialty substance use disorder care to patients in the hospital at OHSU and in outpatient settings across the state of Oregon.

I strongly feel that this bill would have an effect counter to its intended purpose of improving public safety. There is strong evidence to support that syringe service programs increase public safety by preventing transmission of infectious diseases, promoting engagement in substance use disorder care, saving lives by preventing overdose, reducing crime, and even reducing syringe litter.

Instead of safeguarding Oregon's children and families as the SB 1573 intends, cutting syringe service operations would limit the protective effect these services have on public safety and illness prevention and treatment.

Oregon has important work to do to address substance use disorders. SB 1573 would mean a step backwards in our efforts to prevent and treat addiction. Please consider my strong opposition to SB 1573. I hope we can work together towards implementing evidence-based solutions to improve addiction care that truly work.

Sincerely,

Beth Williams, AGNP, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Oregon Health & Science University