

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

Legislation should not be simpler to consider than SB 1573. Ensuring a buffer zone between children... impressionable and innocent at a young age, is not a difficult thing to wrap one's head around. I am in full support of both private and public services to support mental health and drug addiction... as a long-time Portlander, I know it is certainly needed. But as a parent who takes my kid to school every day at Cathedral School in Portland and listen to what they about what they deal with in the immediate vicinity of school, I can't impress enough the need for a safe buffer. My children are afraid of what they call the 'zombies' in their neighborhood. They can see them from classroom windows, can see them from the playground... people in the throws of addiction and mental health crises. Because there is a needle exchange facility a block away, the 'zombies' congregate in the blocks that surround the school. What impacts does this have on a child psychologically? Kids should be insulated during the school day at least to maintain their aspirational, joyful, positive outlook that supports effective learning. Being worried about what lurks outside the door shouldn't be thing. This is a simple concept... create some separation between children and drug addicts with mental health issues. Continue providing support to these individuals, just redirect them away from schools.