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

SB 1573 establishes a 2000 foot no-go zone for mobile vans which do needle exchange, give out naloxone, referrals to drug treatment. They briefly stop at areas of drug use. People may object to their presence, but they go where drugs are being used. This keeps your spouse, child alive, so they have a chance for recovery. It keeps them from getting hepatitis or HIV-Aids from shared needles, so these don't kill them, even after they've been through recovery. It keeps them from passing these often fatal, expensive to treat illnesses on to family and partners. Hepatitis can live on surfaces for up to 3 weeks and be infectious. All it takes is blood from a scratch, scrape, shaving cut, mosquito bite.

There could be some discussion about the size of the exclusion zone, but addicts often lack transportation. Going to where the addicts AREN'T to appease a neighborhood which refuses to see the addicts in their back yard is counterproductive.

The Stadiumhood area has large parks and many schools. Locating a temporary mobile harm reduction van in the NW Stadiumhood area with a 2000 foot barrier is near impossible. I doubt this is the one area in all of Portland without a single homegrown addict. However, it's a successful NIMBY strategy.

SB 1573 has taken a page from Texas' antichoice tactics and allows any person to sue for violations. The reward can be lucrative for the instigator, but the aim of this bill is to put harm mitigation programs out of business through depleting their finances.

This isn't a matter of if but is a matter of when. SB 1573 gives presumptive ownership of any syringes inside of the 2000 foot zone to the mobile exchange van, regardless of origin. The neighborhood bankrupts the clean syringe program, yet the syringes keep littering, in schools, in parks, from your neighbors, the addicted.

SB 1573 is yet another triage program. Drazen's bill wants addicts to miraculously become drug free on their own or die. Drazen has said Oregon coddles addicts. Yet as of 2021, 28,003 of our parents, partners, children and grandchildren are in recovery. This could be your family, relieved at not having another funeral. We need to support harm mitigation until addicts can complete recovery. SB 1573 wants to end this.