

Submitter: Ryan Kramer
On Behalf Of: Cathedral School
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

I am writing as a parent of multiple Cathedral School students and a concerned citizen in support of SB 1573.

Recently, we have seen a considerable increase in open drug use, discarded needles and other drug paraphernalia, and presence of suspected drug users in the vicinity of the school. While there are likely several contributing factors, these observations have coincided with the presence of "syringe service programs" and other harm reduction programs in the neighborhood and within very close range of the school.

Children should be able to learn in a clean and safe environment. We chose Cathedral School for the education and community that it offers. To have to witness, explain, and participate in the mitigation of these unsafe and unclean conditions is not something we expected to encounter when choosing the school.

This bill is not a referendum on harm reduction services. It is about creating a reasonable expectation of what types of activities should be permitted in the vicinity of a school and enabling children to learn and play in a clean and safe environment. SB codifies that expectation and provides accountability for failing to meet it. There are countless other locations and situations to meet those in need with the services these providers offer while not creating unsafe and unsanitary conditions near a school.

Please consider voting YES for SB 1573. Thank you.