

Submitter: Jessica Lancaster

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and  
Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

My name is Jessica Lancaster. I am an Oregon parent and an attorney. I am writing in strong support of SB 1573.

I am a mother of a daughter at Cathedral School in downtown Portland. On a regular basis, my family and other families in the area see drug activity near school. These conditions create real, daily safety concerns for children at our school and for families using nearby sidewalks, parks, and transit stops.

SB 1573 is a straightforward, child-safety measure.

I understand the public-health purpose syringe service programs can serve. SB 1573 does not ban them statewide. It simply sets a common-sense buffer around schools and licensed child care facilities so families can expect a basic level of safety. The clear distance rule and defined terms also make compliance straightforward.

From a parent's perspective, the core issue is simple: children should not be exposed to needles, syringes, or related drug activity in the immediate vicinity of their schools and child care facilities. From a practical perspective, a clear rule reduces ambiguity and encourages responsible siting decisions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support SB 1573.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Lancaster  
Portland, Oregon