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

I live near the Portland Art Museum in downtown Portland.

This area is almost scary to walk around at night because of all the junkies, dealers, and bums that hang around the area. It is also close to a pre-school and where the residents are mostly seniors, low income, and subsidized housing.

There is a group (PPOP) that hands out needles, food and condoms, in front of a preschool on the block next to the museum in the South Park Blocks. We have brought this to attention of the Parks service and several city councilors. They are unable or unwilling to do anything about this. One of the Park Rangers said that they have been threatened by the PPOP volunteers.

The handouts attract a lot of drug users( 40 + at a time ) as well as drug dealers who find it very convenient to have their customers gathered in one place. After PPOP is done, they leave, with garbage strewn all over the area along with used needles and human feces in several areas of the neighborhood. It is left to neighborhood residents and park rangers to clean up.

The newly opened Art Museum is supposed to play a big part in bringing people to downtown, instead the needle exchange people trash the park and scare families that want to visit the museum. The preschool students have to contend with the needles and open drug use and drug dealers that are attracted by the needle exchange.

Please protect the children and the neighborhood residents by passing SB 1573. Stop enabling legal drug use.

Thank you.