

Submitter: Matthew Koester

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

As a parent, I strongly support SB 1537. Children should be able to learn and play without being exposed to open drug use, discarded needles, or the safety risks that can accompany these activities near schools, playgrounds, and licensed child care facilities.

I recognize the broader public-health goals that syringe service programs may serve. SB 1573 does not eliminate those programs statewide. It creates a reasonable buffer around places where children are concentrated and where families should be able to expect a basic margin of safety.

The bill's clear distance standard and defined terms provide a workable, objective framework that protects kids while still allowing harm-reduction services to operate elsewhere.