

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

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am a grandparent of elementary school students in Portland. I am writing to express my support for SB 1573. I believe deeply in helping people who are struggling with addiction. At the same time, I believe we have a responsibility to set thoughtful boundaries when it comes to where services operate—especially near schools and childcare facilities.

Our family has personally seen how nearby mobile syringe services can affect the daily experience of students and families. School routes and surrounding areas should feel safe and appropriate for children, not places where families must worry about hazardous waste or unsafe conditions. This bill does not remove services or take away support. It simply asks that these programs be placed in locations that better balance public health with the needs of children and school communities, and that there be accountability for safety and cleanup.

I understand that changes like this may create logistical challenges for providers, but the safety and wellbeing of children must come first. Families speaking in support of this bill are sharing real, lived experiences from their communities.

I respectfully ask you to support SB 1573.