

Submitter: Amy Wagner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

I spent 13 years working with people who need and benefit from harm reduction services like syringe exchange and other safe consumption resources. I stopped due to intense burnout so I have boundless respect and gratitude for the people still doing the work of caring for this remarkable population. I understand that people who are for this bill are worried about the safety of children, but this bill will not make anyone safer. Passing this bill will put some of our most vulnerable neighbors in greater danger for disease transmission and overdose. The phrasing of this bill makes it sound like mobile syringe exchanges are posting up across from playgrounds when in reality they are a vital outreach resource for safely collecting the syringes that the proponents of this bill are worried about. Due to the short window to respond to this bill and no longer working in the field, I don't have access to statistics so I will just speak from my personal experience working with people. If you provide people with the chance to safely dispose of drug paraphernalia, people who use drugs will do just that. They want sharps containers. They want access to biohazard disposal. They don't want to put their community or your community at risk. For the record, it's the same community. Thank you for your time.