

Submitter: Lauren Glenn  
On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

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Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Glenn, and I am a parent of two children who attend Cathedral School in Portland. I am writing in strong support of SB 1573.

As a parent, my daily life is shaped around school drop-off and pick-up, walking routes, playground time, and after-school activities. Like many families, we trust that the spaces immediately surrounding our children's schools are places where their safety is prioritized. SB 1573 affirms that expectation by establishing clear boundaries that keep syringe service programs from operating within 2,000 feet of schools and licensed child care facilities.

I want to acknowledge that harm-reduction programs play an important role in public health. I believe deeply in compassionate, evidence-based responses to substance use. At the same time, compassion for adults struggling with addiction should not come at the expense of children's safety. These goals are not mutually exclusive — and SB 1573 reflects a reasonable, balanced approach.

Parents should not have to worry about discarded syringes, drug paraphernalia, or related activity in the very places where children walk, play, and learn. Even the possibility of exposure creates stress and fear for families. For young children, these environments shape their sense of safety in the world. Clear, enforceable boundaries matter.

SB 1573 does not eliminate harm-reduction services. It simply ensures that their placement reflects common-sense protections for children and families. As a parent with children currently enrolled in an Oregon school, I believe this bill is a necessary step toward restoring trust, safety, and balance in our shared public spaces.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 1573.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Glenn  
Parent, Cathedral School