

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

To Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Carol Newman, a 52 year resident of Clatsop County with a degree in Child Development and Family Studies from Cornell University. I have worked professionally in education and social services for many years and care deeply about the welfare of children and families.

I believe that SB 1573 is contrary to Oregon Health Authority's credo and will do nothing to make children safer. Rather it will make it more challenging for those are working for positive change to succeed. I question the motivation involved in proposing SB 1573 and urge you not to pass it.

Scientific studies have shown that harm reduction including needle and syringe exchange programs are critical to public health, in Clatsop County, other parts of Oregon and all over the world. Putting up road blocks is counterintuitive and scientifically regressive. Limiting services would increase the potential of harm for the community from needles contaminated with infected blood. People who are taken care of tend to be more responsible in their behavior.

I wonder how the 2000 feet restriction was determined. Again it will make it more cumbersome to service people in need. Could that be the goal? Otherwise, how is one to determine where all child care facilities are located. In Astoria we need and constantly encourage the creation of more child care services. How does that mesh with restricting services, needing to move the boundaries? Why?

I watched the institution of absurd laws on women's reproductive rights and their devastating effects in Texas and elsewhere. Allowing unaffected private persons to file civil lawsuits against violators calls to mind the Salem witch trials and the Spanish Inquisition. I am astonished to read this proposed when the goal is to reduce harm for children, families, the community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony. I believe SB 1573 is contrary to Oregon Health Authority's credo and dangerous to the health of Oregonians. I urge you not to pass SB 1573.