

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

I kindly urge you to oppose SB 1573.

Syringe services are lifesaving to people who use intravenous drugs, as they prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis. Syringe service programs also supply naloxone, and access to naloxone has played a huge role in reducing the number of overdose deaths in the past year.

The current federal administration is already targeting harm reduction services, and they have cut (and continue to threaten to cut) essential funding that allows substance use disorder treatment and harm reduction facilities to exist.

This policy would be especially devastating to rural communities, as mobile syringe service programs provide access to harm reduction supplies and create pathways into recovery for those who have little or no access to other services.

Research has shown time and again that harm reduction saves lives and reduces the spread of infectious diseases. Please consider the existing research and the testimonies of those with lived experience who continue to demonstrate the necessity of these programs.

Please consider the lives that are at risk should SB 1573 come to pass and vote “no.”

Thank You,

Kayla Wright, CADC-III