

Submitter: Colin McClure

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

As a parent of a 4 and 6 year old, I'm deeply invested in Oregon's future. I understand the importance of harm reduction efforts, but I believe boundaries near schools and playgrounds will help ensure our kids' safety. Each time I take them downtown, I shouldn't have to worry about needles or unsafe conditions. While I empathize with those in need, my faith in staying here wavers when I see Portland struggle to balance safety and compassion. It's depressing that we've had to establish a standard practice of having 'the talk' prior to us going downtown to ensure they don't pick up foil, needles, glass, etc. and that the individuals they see acting erratically should be avoided or are just normal fixtures in Portland. I know what this city can be (I grew up here). But revitalization depends on addressing both public health and family safety. I urge you to find that balance, so families like mine choose to stay, invest, and believe in Oregon's future once more.