

Max's Mission

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson and member of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Max's Mission submits this testimony in opposition to SB 1573. We are a community based organization based in 3 Southern Oregon Counties saving lives that would otherwise be lost to overdose. Founded in 2016 after my son Max died from a heroin overdose our focus has been naloxone distribution and training we added low barrier syringe exchange services as we were not reaching enough people who were actively using. In Portland this may not be a problem but in rural areas it is a much bigger challenge. Through regular outreach in multiple locations we provide services to many desperate people young and old. Referrals to health care, detox, treatment, recovery, housing etc. Building the trust to allow us to help so many does not happen in one encounter and can take many conversation with an experienced peer. We also have a contingency program for used syringe returns which has seen us quadruple our numbers over the past year. There is much more going on than might appear to the casual observer. We have recorder over 6000 overdose reversals since we started.

I hope you consider this to be valuable work, unfortunately SB 1573 would severely impact the work we do, where we can do outreach and responding to potential law suits for one syringe on the ground. We are already very tightly stretched and this would add a huge burden. It seems incredible that 36 counties across Oregon will be made to answer for one.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely

Julia Pinsky
Executive Director
Max's Mission