

Submitter: James Lindley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1573

SB 1573 sounds good on the surface-- no one wants children coming in contact with used syringes. However, the 2000 foot distance for a needle exchange program is far too great a distance and would effectively eliminate safe needle exchange programs in small communities like mine (which seems to be the point). Safe needle exchange programs are utilized by people with a substance use disorder that are trying to reduce the harm done to themselves and the community at large by disposing of used needles in a responsible way. Sadly, there is a popular misconception that needle drug users are fundamentally incapable of doing anything in a responsible manner. That is certainly not the reality. The people that use these programs are folks in need of help and a path toward recovery. They do not need further barriers put in the way of reducing harm. Please vote no on SB 1573.