

Submitter: Lauren Tenney Denison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3946

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB3946. This bill closes a loophole which excludes preschools from the definition of "schools" for the purposes of applying stricter punishments for those convicted of controlled substance crimes. Expanding the definition to include preschools enhances the law's ability to deter criminal activity in proximity to learning centers. This is critical for protecting some of our youngest children.

This issue is personal to me as a parent of a child at Arc en Ciel Montessori preschool (AECMS) located across from Dawson's Park in NE Portland. Recently several charges were dropped in relation to an arrest made in the area due to AECMS not qualifying as a "school" under the current law. The fact is the arrested individual was conducting an extensive drug market where illegal firearms were recovered one block from where my child and other AECMS students spend 8 hours a day and should be punished for endangering our children.

I thank the Joint Committee for taking up this issue and ask that you please support this bill to protect our children.

Lauren Tenney Denison
NE Portland Resident and mother of two