Submitter: nicholas kellison

On Behalf Of: Son

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety

Response

Measure, Appointment or

Topic:

HB3946

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent and member of the community to provide testimony regarding the safety and well-being of children attending preschool programs, particularly those in areas where drug activity is visibly present.

As a parent, I have personally witnessed and experienced situations that have raised serious concerns. My young son and I have been exposed to drug-related activity in multiple locations surrounding his preschool, including the park across the street, the convenience store nearby, and even in close proximity to the school itself. On more than one occasion, I have been offered drugs in plain sight. I have seen individuals actively using substances within eyesight of the school grounds and places where children play and gather.

This is not only unacceptable — it is deeply alarming.

Preschools must be treated with the same level of seriousness, care, and protection as any other place of learning. Young children are among the most vulnerable members of our community, and they deserve a safe, supportive environment to learn and grow. That includes the immediate surroundings of their school.

A preschool is not "just" daycare. It is a school in every sense of the word — one that sets the foundation for a child's education, emotional development, and view of the world. Exposure to drug use or related criminal activity near these institutions undermines their safety and can leave lasting impressions on young minds.

I urge you to recognize the urgent need to address this issue and to afford preschools the same consideration and protection as elementary, middle, and high schools. Our children's safety should never be compromised — especially not in places meant to nurture and educate them.

Sincerely, Nicholas Kellison Portland, Oregon Nicholas.kellison@gmail.com