

June 11, 2025

No on Senate Bill 1173

Senate Rules Committee

Testimony of Susan Konecny, Jacksonville, OR

Chair Jama and members of the Committee, my name is Susan Konecny and I want to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 1173 that would allow medical facilities to get a free pass when they administer or provide bad or tainted drugs to patients. As someone who has been permanently injured by a contaminated drug injected into my hands, the prospect of patients having no recourse to hold medical providers accountable for tainted products dispensed on their watch is deeply concerning. As a retired nurse and former veterinarian, my permanent injuries due to a contaminated injection have changed the very course of my life and livelihood.

In 2022, I sought relief from a condition commonly known as “trigger finger” or locked finger that was impeding my ability as a vet to spay or neuter animals in my care. These should have been simple, routine injections to decrease tendon swelling and help me return to work. Instead, I quickly developed an MRSA infection because of the contaminated drug administered at the clinic in Southern Oregon. And I wasn’t the only one. Three more patients were injected with the same bad drug at the clinic and all suffered similar permanent injury. For me, the effects were immediate and within two days my left hand was completely red and swollen with excruciating pain radiating everywhere. My right hand followed suit, and this began my painful journey, requiring a slew of procedures and two surgeries, 6 days apart, to drain and irrigate the site. I endured countless blood draws and was treated with oral antibiotics for 8 weeks. The infection recurred so I had a long line IV catheter placed for IV antibiotics. As a side effect of that, I developed a Clostridium Difficile infection that also required treatment.

The medical bills piled up and the recovery time went on for at least a year, a long, agonizing process. I now have permanent anxiety about any invasive medical procedure. I doubt I will ever overcome that anxiety. Because they had to cut open both hands, I also developed deep scar tissue pulling tissue from my palms. Needless to say, the use of my hands will never be the same. My career as a veterinarian is over forever. Even with my long history in the medical community as a trained nurse and vet, I’m now scared of vaccines or injections of any kind.

Through the course of my case, the drug manufacturer claimed the drug provided was perfectly fine. We don’t know if the clinic ever cultured the product to determine if it was contaminated or not, but we do know they administered it. This is why the bill before you is so dangerous. Manufacturers and clinics will point the finger back at the other, and injured patients will be left out in the cold, with no accountability on either side. Immunity is not the answer. Rigorous testing and patient safety must always be the priority.

Please vote No on Senate Bill 1173. Thank you.