

Dear Oregon Legislature,

My name is Joelle Flegal and I have been a public school teacher for fifteen years in the David Douglas and Parkrose School Districts. I was shocked to recently learn that CS gas, which was banned from warfare in 1925, is still being used by police forces in Oregon. The effects of CS gas can be life-threatening and it puts police officers, protesters, bystanders, and health care workers at great risk. One in ten Oregonians have asthma, with disproportionate rates among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The use of tear gas puts BIPOC and others with health concerns, such as asthma, at high risk of severe harm.

CS gas has no place in our communities and I am asking that it be banned, just as it was for warfare in 1925.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joelle Flegal