

As a physician, I support limiting the use of tear gas by law enforcement. I am concerned about my patients, many who have chronic health care conditions including pulmonary disease making them vulnerable to exacerbations of their lung disease due to tear gas. The riot exemption must be removed as well, as we have seen police in Oregon deploying tear gas on protestors which is an unnecessary and reckless when it comes to health of a crowd. 10% of people in Oregon have asthma, with disproportionate rates among BIPOC, and I urge the Oregon Legislature Joint Committee to listen to the voices of the Black community when changing the ways we approach public safety.

Thank you for your work in protecting the health of our communities.

Linda Peng, MD

Addiction Medicine Fellow, PGY-4

Oregon Health & Science University