

Greetings,

I am a fifth generation Oregonian, Portland resident, mom, and Infectious Diseases physician.

HB 4208 is a step forward, and still woefully insufficient. As we have seen in Portland the last two weeks, limiting the use of CS to situations such as riots has resulted in the frequent declaration of riots. One of these occurrences happened a half mile from my home, harming a number of bystanders.

Instead, there should be an absolute ban on the use of tear gas and other chemical weapons in the state of Oregon.

If the deployment of chemical agents in war is a human rights violation, their use among civilians is as well. A police force that requires chemical agents to “control” a civilian population is a police force that has failed.

Moreover, we are seeing the increased used of chemical agents as we face dramatic increases in COVID throughout our state. The application of agents that target the respiratory system amidst a pathogen that targets the respiratory system is unconscionable. It is even more unconscionable when deadly force is used disproportionately against Black civilians, who also are disproportionately infected and killed by SARS-CoV2.

Chemical agents harm civilians, police officers, neighborhoods, and health care workers. They have no place in our communities and our state.

Sincerely,  
Marissa Maier, MD  
Portland, OR

Sent from my iPhone