

Testimony on House Bill 4208 *Relating to the use of tear gas by law enforcement*

Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Bynum, and members of the [Joint Committee On Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform](#),

House Bill 4208 *Relating to the use of tear gas by law enforcement* fails to address the imminent public health threat posed by crowd dispersal gasses. The use of these gasses should be prohibited from use in all situations involving protests, civil disobedience and dissent. I request, desperately, that the bill's chief sponsors and regular sponsors amend the bill to prohibit the use of these gasses by law enforcement in the state of Oregon for perpetuity.

I stand behind the world views of Dr. Danny Jacobs, Dr. Alisha R. Moreland-Capuia, Brian Castner, Dr. Peter Barr-Gillespie, Dr. Jules Boykoff, Michael German and Dr. Bryan Wolf whom you have invited to speak in front of the committee, and ask that you deeply consider their expertise. They are a world-class group of researchers and thinkers.

I stand with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility in their call to ban the use of tear gas in Oregon completely. I stand with my friends who have suffered at the violent hands of police, night after night, as they show up to protest the direct brutality they endure. They are not a lawless, uneducated bunch as described in the press. Rather they have a refined ideology of a better world and have been reduced to believe that putting their bodies on the line is the only means through which to currently make their point. Dr. Jules Boykoff, Michael German, Dr. Stanislav Vyostsky and Juan Chavez who spoke in front of the committee have elucidated this truth clearly. Are you listening to them?

I ask the committee members who represent rural districts, and may feel alienated from the current urban uprising, to consider objectively the information provided by the medical professionals, researchers and experts who have spoken before you over the last two weeks.

Passage of HB 4208 as-is essentially green lights continued police violence against urban protesters. Passage of HB 4208 as-is is a confirmation that the legislature does not support citizens' right to dissent. These protests have reached a fever pitch. Federal agents who provoke, kidnap, assault and attempt to murder our youth on the streets seem only emboldened as they pour into Portland in armored vehicles. Banning crowd dispersal gasses in totality is one small chip away at the fascist police state. Please amend this bill to protect human rights.

Thank you,
Alison Cole
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