

I am writing as a concerned pediatrician and mother. The use of tear gas by Portland police, particularly in the era of COVID, is life-threatening. Our police seem to lack understanding that tear gas is potentially lethal, particularly for those with lung disease. Additionally, the coughing, sneezing, and tearing caused by tear gas effectively spread the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Please support HB 4208, which would limit the use of tear gas by law enforcement. The bill currently allows for an exemption in the case of "riots," which appears to have been misused: police are targeting peaceful demonstrators with tear gas.

Thank you for listening to my concerns as a physician about the potentially lethal effects of tear gas. Your support of this bill will help limit the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon.

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