

Dear members of the Oregon Legislature Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform:

My name is Julia Durrant, MD. I am neurologist and a critical care doctor here in Oregon and I am writing to express my support in banning the use of tear gas by law enforcement in situations of civil disobedience. Tear gas can be lethal to those who have underlying lung conditions and can cause bronchitis and pneumonia in healthy, young individuals. In addition, given that we have coronavirus circulating in the community, the use of tear gas, which causes excessive coughing and tearing which can contribute to the spread of the virus to people young and old. We are on the verge of having uncontrollable spread of this virus and we must do everything that we can to prevent the illness and death of the vulnerable of our people. We have a responsibility to the public health of the state to prohibit the use of tear gas.

Thank you,

Julia Durrant, MD