

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Devin Hally, I am from Clackamas County and I have been tear gassed at protests that did not instigate that level of force used upon us. As a group we try to remain unviolent, but mildly annoying as we are trying to be heard. Tear gas, especially in the era of corona virus, should not be used on citizens of Oregon, nor the united states as a whole. It is extremely dangerous and toxic. I have suffered struggling to breathe 2-3 days after getting CS gassed. I have also suffered sever menstruation abnormalities. After getting CS gassed I began spotting and cramping out of my normal cycle. And the cycle I am currently in is worse than I have had in almost 2 years.

This gas is not safe; for the citizens of Portland, for those with menstrual cycles, for the houseless community that is often exposed without being in the protests, for the residents whose houses get exposed to this toxin, for anyone.

It is not only the physical affects of tear gas, there are mental consequences to being exposed to the gas and the sound of the munitions exploding into function. Both my brother and I have been having symptoms if PTSD from having the police use tear gas so often. Hearing fireworks go off has made both of us exceedingly anxious and activates our fight or flight response. This is not healthy or safe for protesters.

I would also like to mention that foam/rubber bullets are not in fact non lethal. When the police aim for the heads of protesters extreme injury and death can occur. There is video evidence of police aiming for the head with these munitions. This is extremely dangerous and not what those munitions were designed for.

I implore the Chair and Committee members to remove CS and other forms tear gas from the cops tool kit to deal with protesters, at the very least. We have a right to protest as American citizens and we should not be met with extreme violence and cop riots.

Thank you for letting me testify on this issue, and I hope you as the Chair and Members of the Committee are well.