

To: Co-Chairs Bynum and Manning and Members of the Committee, Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform, Oregon State Legislature Subject: HB 4208

July 17, 2020

I have been a Portland resident for over 10 years. I stand against the use of tear gas/CS gas on protesters. There have been studies over the past several years which indicate tear gas/CS gas can cause chronic health issues. Just a few of the many effects: ocular effects which include deep vascularization of the eye, vitreous hemorrhage, traumatic optic neuropathy, cataracts, and glaucoma. The tear gas/CS gas used on the protesters also causes severe respiratory distress, including pulmonary edema, apnea, and respiratory arrest (1). CS gas is also known to affect reproductive organs. There are accounts from some of the protesters that their menstrual cycles have been disrupted along with suddenly having several menstrual cycles within a months' time.

Over the past few weeks, there have been several occasions where the Portland Police Department used tear gas/CS gas on peaceful protestors. This is documented with videos and eyewitness accounts.

How is this acceptable? Why is the use of tear gas/CS gas being allowed?

I am vehemently against the use of chemical warfare being used on protesters.

Sabina McQuillan

Laskin, Jeffrey D. (Section Editor) "Tear gas: An Epidemiological and Mechanistic Reassessment." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 2016 Aug; 1378(1): 96–107. Published online 2016 Jul 8. doi: 10.1111/nyas.13141

Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Sabina McQuillan.

I live in Multnomah County

I support HB 4208 which prohibits law enforcement agencies from using tear gas or from using long range acoustic devices or sound cannons.

I am a retired therapist with specialized training in trauma informed therapy

I am extremely upset with the PPD and federal agents using CS/Tear gas as chemical warfare on peaceful protesters without provocation and without warning not only in downtown Portland but also in residential neighborhoods. The use of chemical agents that are prohibited in war but are being used against peaceful protesters is an egregious violation of human rights and the right to peaceful assembly. There is research that has proven that CS/tear gas causes vision, skin, respiratory, and reproductive health problems. I personally know of a couple of female protesters who have had their menstrual cycles disrupted as a direct result of exposure to the CS/tear gas being used by the Portland police department and federal agents.

Use of long range acoustic devices and sound cannons presents its own dire set of health problems such as disorientation, severe headaches, and hearing loss, among other health problems. Some of the effects of long range acoustic device exposure are chronic and permanent.

Psychological warfare including cutting off the supply chain and specifically targeting press and medics, physically brutalizing people that are documenting the protests and who are assisting with health care for the protesters is being used. These are tactics that have been used during war for centuries; why are they being used against citizens who are exercising their first amendment rights?

Engaging in the use of dehumanizing tactics by referring to protesters with terms such as “rioters”, “anarchists”, and “mobs” opens the door for the police and federal agents to use excessive physical brutality in the name of “keeping the peace”. There are several video recordings of police brutality and I personally know some of the protesters who are documenting the flagrant use of inexcusable violence by the police and federal agents against peaceful protesters. The ppb and federal agents are causing grievous bodily harm under the guise of protecting federal property. Since when has property become more important than human life?