Hello,

My name is Grace, and I'm an ER nurse. The use of excessive force by police onto innocent people is something I see every day at work. I've seen patients wheeled in, hyperventilating, face down on a gurney, with their hands still cuffed behind their back, trying to eek out an "I can't breathe". I've rushed a patient to the cath lab when he suffered a heart attack after being inappropriately detained by a police officer for sleeping in a car. I've faces so swollen from assault that they don't look human. As gut wrenching as it is to watch this violence play out again and again, it is downright infuriating and irresponsible to see officers using tear gas and pepper spray in any circumstances in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In my ER, we allow no visitors, and demand that everyone wears a mask for safety. One must wear a special N-95 mask or a positive airway pressure respirator when patients are on a ventilator, a BiPAP, getting nebulizer treatments to relieve their asthma. Those aerosolizing particles can also be expelled when patients are coughing or sneezing. Face masks will not even protect you from this.

As Covid cases are once again climbing, I'm asking you in the name of public health and the public interest that PPD cease the use of tear gas in ALL circumstances. This virus is no joke and it will not discriminate. It will take down anyone it can, and I have seen firsthand how cruel and ruthless it can be. Please put an end to it, for the safety of all Oregonians.

Grace