

Good afternoon,

I want to reach out to require an amendment to HB 4208 to prevent the use of CS/tear gas permanently - by law enforcement or otherwise. The use of this gas is a known act of violence, it's why we don't allow it in war with foreign powers.

So why do we allow it in our streets to be used on our residents directly and affect those in the area who are not a "target"? Other "non-lethal" weapons are still lethal. Most of the escalation of issues at these protests are due to escalations by the police.

We need to treat individuals in our state with more respect - especially during a time of global pandemic. I urge you to watch the videos of the protests - even looking at the video that Fox news published about the federal reporters, we can't see the mob they mention, we can only see the cops and federal agents walking among clouds of gas they deployed and arresting folks demonstrating peacefully.

If police are gassing/shooting/arresting and taking other actions against journalists and legal observers, how can we trust them to respect other peaceful protestors? If they are threatened by a few aggressors who may throw non-lethal instruments such as a water bottle when they have massive resources to protect themselves (shields, vests etc), how can we expect them to react rationally?

Unfortunately, we have seen that we can't. We must remove the violent crutches the PPB is using to harm residents of what I want to believe is a great state. Let's work together to make it a safe state to be and use our rights of free speech and assembly.

Thank you for your time,
Sofia