

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to demand a revision to HB 4208 passed on 6/26/2020. As it currently stands, HB 4208 allows for the use of tear gas on civilians when police have deemed a gathering a "riot". As a Portland resident and Registered Nurse, I demand that tear gas be banned in ALL circumstances and the Portland Police Department be held accountable for the violence they have perpetrated against the people of Portland.

Tear gas has been deemed illegal in warfare since 1925 due to its harmful and sometimes lethal effects on skin, vulnerable tissues, and respiratory systems. At baseline, the effects of tear gas will disproportionately impact Black, Indigiounous, and People of Color in our communities who already suffer from health vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, the use of an agent that increases the risk of spreading droplet and airborne illness during a pandemic is grossly negligent on the part of our city leadership. Use of tear gas is an insult to frontline providers and essential workers who are risking our own health and safety to care and serve the people of our Portland.

Stop the use of tear gas against the people of Portland in all circumstances NOW.

Jessica Dalton MSN, RN, CMSRN

Portland, OR