

Co-Chairs Bynum, Manning, and other respected committee members,

I am writing to express my support for the bulk of LC 742. I find its outright ban on tear gas and other chemical incapacitants to be vital, humane, and eminently necessary. These weapons are too indiscriminate in their focus and place too many people at risk. There is also insufficient evidence to suggest that they are free from long-term negative health effects. I find this legislative concept to be a helpful and worthy strengthening of existing legislation. These weapons are unsafe to use under any circumstance.

I am concerned about the relative lack of limits on the use of impact munitions. To draw examples from my home city of Portland, several people have been seriously injured by improperly used impact munitions over the past several years. I would appreciate stronger limitations and more rigorous standards for their use.

I also fully support the expanded identification requirements elaborated upon in LC 743. I am very grateful that members of the committee who have themselves served as law enforcement officers understand the importance of clear identification for police. The current system, under which officers only need to display their identification numbers, has created enormous undue burden on people wishing to file complaints about officer conduct, and as such serves to shield officers from necessary feedback on their performance or discipline for brutal or illegal actions.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful development of these legislative concepts. I hope they pass in nearly-unaltered form. I am grateful that the public's testimony on the negative impact of tear gas seems to have shaped your thinking.

Thank you for your time.

Rosalind Lewis