

My testimony is simple. My name is Claire Snyder, I am an American, Oregonian, mother, and black/hispanic woman. I was a participant in a peaceful protest in Portland, Oregon on Friday, July 24th. I came to stand and freely express my discontent with the racism that is in our community, and was met with pepper spray, tear gas, and threats on my physical well-being by officers. I was not in any way threatening federal property, nor were my co-protestors. We were standing, chanting, and working to show our government we don't approve of their actions. We wielded cardboard signs and wore t-shirts while being met with military tactics. This is an unacceptable infringement on our right to free speech. Those of us, like myself, who are of color, are protesting inequality. This use of force demonstrates that our government approves of continuation of racist tactics. Reform is needed. We will not stop legally protesting. We will not stop making our voices heard, but we would very much appreciate not having to die, be maimed, or injured for it.