

Dear committee members,

I live in House district 36 and Senate district 18 and I would like to register strong support for LC 742, 743, 745, 751, 761, 762, and 763. I live in the Essex House building, two blocks from the Multnomah County Justice Center and three blocks from the Hatfield Federal Courthouse. Due to this proximity, I have extensive experience relating especially to LC 742.

During use of teargas and flashbang grenades by both local and federal agencies, I experienced teargas entering my apartment, at times even when windows were closed. I have been unable to keep windows open at times I would normally do so in the summer to cool my apartment.

The use of loudspeakers by PPB, often directly under my window, was painful to my ears even with windows closed, causing me to use earplugs when trying to relax in my home. Flashbangs used by various agencies have had a similar effect, also causing frequent mild to moderate panic attacks, which are not typical for me. I can only begin to imagine the effects on any combat veterans (or people who have lived in war zones) who may live in the building. My pets are vulnerable to the chemicals and extremely stressed by the noise as well.

When I attend protests, the effects of these attacks are even more intense. On one occasion I sat on the ground in Chapman Park assisting a person in crisis and was reacting to gas residue in the dirt even before gas was deployed that evening. The environmental implications of this chemical weapon residue are incalculable as well as the health effects of repeated exposure to so many Oregonians.

As many have pointed out, the use of gas that targets the respiratory system and causes coughing is particularly egregious during a pandemic that is spread by respiratory droplets.

I support any attempts to further regulate the use of these weapons and other forms of police violence as well as ways to increase accountability, reduce funding for policing, and increase funding for community based alternatives for public safety.

Thank you for your time and attention to these issues,

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