

Committee members:

I was delighted to hear that your committee was considering a raft of police reform measures, which I support in general. Though all of them are important and needed, I most strongly urge you to advance LC 17, the measure restricting use of crowd control weapons. I have been participating in the Portland protests and have been shot by Portland Police Bureau with less-lethal munitions during dispersal actions. I have been hit in the head, the thigh, the hand. I have not been arrested. It is clear to me that PPB is using these weapons broadly on protestors, instead of targeting individual lawbreakers who they are attempting to arrest or targeting protestors who are threats to police or public safety.

Again, all of these measures are important but this one seems to most directly affect our constitutional right to assemble. If police are not pulled back from using these tools as punishments, we will lose our ability to demonstrate safely.

Thank you,

Brad Werth