

Public comment in support of LC 742 (LC 17)

Good evening,

I am a student at Lewis and Clark Law School voicing support for the proposed LC 742 (LC 17) to end police ability to use crowd control weapons for mass dispersals and remove civil immunity of police officers for actions committed during so-called "riots." This summer I attended the protests (and I would not call them riots) in downtown Portland. I witnessed the chaos and indiscriminate use of random pepper balls, non lethal munition and other weapons by police on lawful protestors. It is clear that these protests will continue and Oregon citizens will continue to be harmed if lawmakers do not intervene. Lawmakers must protect constituents and ban the use of crowd control weapons by officers clearly untrained to use them in a safe and productive manner. Further, civil immunity of police officers should be ended during these protests. Video footage of PPB officers assailing protestors has gone viral around the nation. The legislature must forcefully condemn this type of police violence - if not, Portland will quickly resemble a police state. End civil immunity for police at these so-called "riots" and protect citizens. Finally, citizens were wrongfully shot with impact munition while protesting should be free to sue officers. Nobody is above the law.

Thank you,
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