



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT: HB 4208-1 or -2
(LIMITING THE USE OF TEAR GAS AND ACOUSTIC DEVICES)

To: Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020
From: Michael Selvaggio, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs
Date: June 24, 2020

Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee:

For the record, my name is Michael Selvaggio, representing the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS). ORCOPS supports HB 4208, as amended by either the 4208-1 or 4208-2 amendments, which seek to limit the use of tear gas and acoustic devices by law enforcement officers.

The purpose of these tools is to allow law enforcement officers to maintain distance and de-escalate a situation, but they should not be casually deployed when more passive de-escalation methods may be more appropriate.

Both the 4208-1 and 4208-2 amendments to the bill allow for the rare instances where such tools represent the safest options available, while still ensuring that their use does not become a “go-to” resolution in otherwise peaceful demonstrations.

ORCOPS urges your support of the measure as amended by either 4208-1 or 4208-2.