

Hi my name is Chad Kernutt and I am from Albany, Oregon. I implore the Oregon senators and representatives to vote NO on HB-4208. This bill places law enforcement agencies and officers in danger by removing the sole non-lethal means of crowd control/dispersal. The decision to deploy tear gas or an acoustic cannon is a command decision that must be left to law enforcement agents on the scene. The purpose behind the use of these tools is to disperse a crowd that has been determined no longer a peaceful protest (crimes are being committed) and render those resisting the lawful orders of officers unable to further resist. Removing these tools leaves officers on the scene, always outnumbered, with tools designed only for personal protection. These tools are inappropriate and insufficient to reduce the threats to life and property posed by a large crowd in an emotionally volatile environment where people are vandalizing cars and businesses and objects like bricks, rocks, molotov cocktails, IED's, fireworks (mortars), glass bottles, bottles of urine and gasoline are being hurled at officers and when people are assaulting officers and/or other civilians with blunt force objects, fists, and spit. Also, according to the testimony exhibit of a police officer, tear gas may be used in more individual situations in which one has barricaded oneself with or without hostages. Officers on the scene need to be allowed to avail themselves of more options rather than fewer in order to increase the odds of a successful outcome without injury or loss of life. Let's also not forget that just like in the case of the death penalty bill last year (a real doozy on your part) that the effects of this bill would have far reaching implications that many of you may not have considered or already know but are acting on nefarious reasons like scoring political points. It is in my belief that this bill would also encompass the jails and prisons and would take away the only tools correctional officers have to defeat rioting inmates (in 95% of the scenarios in a correctional setting the officers would not have guns, tasers, or batons). Again I implore the Oregon senators and representatives that this disastrous bill falls before to vote NO on HB-4208 as this bill places law enforcement agencies and officers in danger. Thank you.

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