

Please vote to support HB 4201, which requires deaths and injuries caused by police to be reported to the Attorney General. Police are not above the law, and like any other professional that holds public health in their hands, should be subject to the same laws as any other citizen, with excessive use of force something that should be on record and available to the public.

Please vote to support HB 4203, which disallows police to use force that limits a person's ability to breathe. These measures often result in death, and are unnecessary given other, less risky, forms of subduing a person.

Please vote to support HB 4205, which requires a police officer to intervene when they see another cop engaging in "act that is unethical or that violates law, rules or policy.". The idea of "mandatory reporting" is an excellent one. No employee of the state or any private organization acts in a vacuum. Enforcing the need for employees to take the blame for their coworkers is a great move.

Please vote to support HB 4207, which establishes a state-wide database of policy disciplinary records and makes that database public. As protectors of the public, transparency is necessary to guarantee public trust. The police force should not be an enemy of the people, they need to be able to be trusted and valued.

Please vote to support HB 4204 which establishes temporary limitations on lenders being able to enforce default remedies on obligations secured by mortgages, trust deeds, land sale contracts or other instruments. This is a terrible situation, that is affecting us all, and people on the lower rungs of society the most. The lenders easily have enough capital to be able to sustain a reduction in income, much more so than the people they would be enforcing defaults on. Such an action is necessary to ensure the health of our economy.

Please vote to support HB 4213 which prohibits residential and commercial evictions under specified conditions during emergency period. Again, evictions during this time in our history would be a tragedy. It will displace the most vulnerable members of society, increase the spread of the disease through occupation of homeless shelters by the now destitute, and remove potential workers from the economy to help with recovery.

Please vote to support HB 4208, which prohibits use of teargas and sonic weapons. These items have been banned by the Geneva convention; if they are not valid for use against enemy combatants, why is it ok to use them on our own citizens? Why should we treat an opposing nation's peoples better in wartime than we do our own citizens even in times of peace? They are being improperly used, resulting in injuries as canisters are being shot directly at people, used excessively, and in disgusting manners. We are better than this; we should not be using chemical warfare on our own people.

Please be on the right side of history. These bills are not sufficient for change, but they are necessary, and a great starting place to earning the trust of our citizens once again. A state, a nation, is only as great as its people. If it cannot support and protect its people, then it is doomed to failure.

Thank you,

Chris Vonnegut, Ph.D.