

I support Bill 2928 to prohibit use of tear gas and other chemical incapacitants as well as impact projectiles and sound devices meant for crowd control. I experienced the Portland Police's indiscriminate use of violence firsthand during the protests in 2020 on multiple occasions. Even those, including myself and what I can attest was the vast majority of people in attendance at the protests which took place at but not limited to the Justice Center downtown and Penumbra Kelly Building on East Burnside, who were unarmed and nonviolent and simply standing in the street or marching, were subjected to these munitions indiscriminately.

On one occasion when I was in attendance at Portland PD/Kelly Penumbra Building on Burnside, we (protesters) were kettled by police who created a stampede, only to block off where we were being "corralled" to while throwing tear gas canisters directly into the crowd/stampede despite there being nowhere to run to. Once we were blocked off by a line of police officers and disoriented, the police began hitting people with batons and arresting whoever was unlucky enough to be at the front of the stampede or caught by them.

On one occasion, PPB deemed it an unlawful assembly because protesters were standing in the road. People were tackled to the ground and arrested for being on the road. We need to further regulate how officers can deem an assembly "unlawful" or a riot and therefore rationalize use of force and violence.

Police not being able to deem it a riot according to their whims ensures the safety of protesters. If they have any ability whatsoever to deem it a riot, they will, as I have witnessed it on numerous occasions. The use of tear gas and crowd munitions must be taken away from them because they have harmed too many people, including the unarmed, homeless, elderly, and handicapped.

After being gassed multiple times, I experienced short-term respiratory problems and heavy menstrual bleeding in addition to headaches.

"Epidemiological research on tear gas health effects is clearly deficient and has received little public support. Evidence from the limited epidemiological studies available and from case studies demonstrates that tear gas agents have the potential to cause serious harm and present specific threats to vulnerable populations, including children, women, and individuals affected by respiratory, cutaneous, and cardiovascular morbidities."
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5096012/>)

This is why I support Bill 2928.