

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2928 for the regulation of use of chemical incapacitants, kinetic impact projectiles and sound devices by law enforcement agencies. These chemicals have already damaged hundreds of people and many of the worst the long term effects are not even known.

The use of chemical weapons this past summer has silenced people's rights to protest, harmed by bystanders and neighbors, caused many long term health effects such as failed pregnancies, and many environmental impacts, such as polluting water quality and defoliating trees. These chemical weapons have been used to indiscriminately attack entire crowds of people, most who are simply exercising their first amendment rights and have committed no crime. The indiscriminate use of chemical weapons has seeped into nearby houses and apartments, causing extreme suffering for unrelated bystanders, including kids and families. Many of the long term environmental and health impacts of these weapons have not yet been found, but they will not be good. Already we have seen chemical weapons cause many women to have irregular periods and failed pregnancies. Furthermore in areas surrounding widespread use of chemical weapons many trees have been substantially harmed, including losing their leaves. The use of these weapons this summer was so reckless and harmful that many people have been directly struck, getting massive injuries. One of these people was Donovan La Bella, who was shot at close range with tear gas canister. Donovan La Bella almost died, and he barely recovered from his fractured skull.

Additionally HB 2928 bans law enforcement agencies from using proxy law enforcement agencies to circumvent court orders. This is necessary prevent what we saw this summer, where PPB coordinated with state troopers to continue to brutalize protestors with chemical weapons even when a court ordered them against the use of tear gas.

Many of the practices that HB 2928 seeks to ban are not allowed under international law. It is time for us to rise to that standard and to end the use of these tactics that caused widespread brutality, suffering and environmental destruction this past summer.

Thank for your consideration