

Submitter: Andre Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4131

Dear House Committee,

Thank you for allowing my written testimony and thank you to the ACLU of Oregon for advocating for an issue that is so dear to me and that I and my family have been impacted by.

I come to you today representing myself in my personal capacity as an activist and advocate for marginalized communities and against police brutality.

The murders of Black people by police officers across the Nation is an issue that not only impacts those communities but all people and especially ones of color.

The days after the murder of George Floyd my family and I decided that we were going to participate in marches and protests in solidarity to express our first ammendment right. What we did not know is that by expressing our right we were going to be met with unlawful use of force and exposed to chemical weapons.

My family has been traumatized by not only the exposure of chemical weapons but also how we became the targets of how those weapons were used.

I was shot in the face with a tear gas canister on July 22nd that caused me significant injury. I will forever live with that pain as well as the scar on my face. It is unlawful to use these weapons for crowd control on people exercising their rights and it is even more unlawful to use them in a way that aims for peoples head. Being exposed to tear gas caused me brain cloudiness, headaches and loss of appetite. Being shot in the head caused me several months of concussion like symptoms, a lot of rehabilitation and past traumatic stress.

I am here today to advocate for a ban that does not allow officers to use tear gas or any other munitions as a crowd control tactic.

Thank you for reading my testimony and it is my hope that by listening to these testimonies that you uphold HB 2928 in how it was originally proposed, passed and signed and not the newly recommended HB 4131.

