

Submitter: Maura Jansen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4131

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee —

I strongly oppose the passage of HB4131 out of committee. HB 2928 provided much needed protections for our communities. Law enforcement officers have demonstrated a pattern of reckless and damaging use of chemical weapons for crowd control in this state, furthered by trends around the country. We need more protection, not less, around freedom of assembly, as is the right of everyone in this country. This is both a civil liberties issue as well as a public health issue. Chemical incapacitants, as named in the bill, negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods, including families with children, the elderly, and many others who are not involved and are not the intended targets. Beyond those impacts, the chemicals then end up in the air and water causing further harm. Additionally, if we give agencies the power to use these tools in the case of a riot, while they have the ability to define a riot with little to no oversight, we essentially remove any prohibitions on these weapons. Please, for the safety and health of Oregonians, do not pass this bill.

Respectfully,  
Maura Jansen