

Greetings to the esteemed members of this Judiciary Committee, and my colleagues here today,

My name is Seemab Hussaini and I am a community organizer with a focus on supporting Black/Muslim/immigrant/refugee communities. I'm a co-founder of the state of Oregon's only Muslim civil rights org - CAIR-Oregon, a social justice and civil rights activist and Police Accountability Commissioner with the City of Portland to rebuild the new Independent Police Review Board.

I'm here today to join my communities and advocates in disapproval of HB 4131. I speak as a member of the communities directly impacted by the actions of the Portland Police Bureau, and their indiscriminate use of force against protesters.

I was with my colleague and a family of 4 (one of whom was pregnant) on teargas Tuesday (6/2/20). During what could be considered the down time after a large community event that day, where notable speakers including community organizers, and one who is now an Oregon Senator, a day that drew a 1000's of Oregonians that flashed images of solidarity for George Floyd across the nation, we took in the day's meaning on the corner of 4th and Salmon. Right there on Taylor, a fence went up, stacking the most heavily equipped riot police on the other side, and on a Long Range Acoustic Device also known by the acronym LRAD, demanding us to not touch the fence, all very unexpectedly. This set the stage for an escalation, and it escalated quickly. They "kettled" the crowd and shut down any safe exit. After calling us an unlawful assembly, Kinetic Impact Projectiles and Chemical Incapacitants like CS gas and triple chasers rained inward from 5th and 3rd Ave, and across Taylor. The family that broke away from my colleague and I unknowingly went straight towards 3rd ave and was fired upon, with everything. There was not one specific person to aim these munitions at. We are families, social workers, doctors and nurses (many of whom are documented street medics throughout the protests), community organizers, legislative staffers, and anyone else you can think of. These munitions were and are Indiscriminate.

Since that day, I've spent dozens of nights out during the protests, observing and being a repeated victim of batons let alone these impact and chemical munitions. There has never been a moment that the Portland Police wouldn't call out in any circumstance, a riot.

[Currently, we have DPSST certified trainers who espouse and subscribe to extreme far right ideologies, teaching and profiting off of escalation techniques, to police codified as faux heroism/patriotism.](#) Also, I would refer you to the now infamous "[training slides](#)" discovered this year in regards to far right elements becoming fodder for attacking our 1st amendment activities.

I can't profess to fully understand the dichotomous relationship police have with protesters demanding accountability, vs. the far-right and white supremacist elements that espouse nothing but hate, disinformation, and intolerance much of the times for a faith they have no understanding of, and feel protected by our local law enforcement throughout the state, to espouse actual violent ideologies. But no police force should ever have access to more tools of escalation, when they haven't even nailed down the tools of deescalation.

Thank you.

