

Submitter: Sandy Chung
On Behalf Of: Community Member 5
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4131

Community member 5, Salem: I moved to Oregon the weekend after George Floyd was murdered. I saw communities all over the world calling out for justice and police responding with violence, including excessive and inappropriate use of tear gas and "non-lethal" munitions. I've seen police target medics and destroy food and water intended to take care of the most vulnerable in our community. I've seen police protect counter protestors who show up to peaceful events heavily armed and looking for a fight. I've seen police shirk accountability time and time again. Here in Salem, SPD and OPD are particularly skilled at passing the buck between each other in an endless loop, claiming that the other is the one that has jurisdiction in certain areas. I do not trust the police here and I do not want any restrictions weakened. I cannot believe that police will behave responsibly. I do not believe that alternatives like more training or more funding will do anything to curb their violence and harm. Weakening restrictions will lead to much more harm to our communities. In all that I have shared and all that I have witnessed, I have not even touched on the deleterious impacts of tear gas on the environment. It's use creates danger all around. I urge you to vote against HB [4131]. Voting against it will provide more public safety than the police ever will.