

Submitter: Sandy Chung  
On Behalf Of: Community Member 10  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4131

Community member 10, Portland: Tear gas is not a valid “tool” for “crowd control”. I was peacefully protesting in downtown Portland in June of 2020 when suddenly the police came out of nowhere and began throwing flash bombs and heavily dispensing tear gas. I was immediately blinded and separated from my partner. I couldn’t breath and couldn’t see. This I feel was a act of warfare on peaceful residents of the city exercising our first amendment rights. I stumbled through the streets to find a place where the air was not filled with gas. I threw up, my nose had snot pouring out of it and tried my best to wash out my eyes. I was terrified and eventually reconnected with my partner. In the months that followed I had terrifying recurrent nightmares, my menstrual cycle was incredibly more intense. I grew fearful of police in general despite previously believing police were there to protect. No more.

I am a middle aged mother, healthcare worker with a masters degree. I own a home in Portland and have lived here for over 20 years. I’ve been to many protests over the years that have been peaceful and impactful. This was the first time I had been tear gassed.

Tear gas is an agent of terror. A tool used to punish and inflect pain and suffering in an attempt to control.