

Submitter: Sandy Chung
On Behalf Of: Community Member 16
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4131

Community member 16, Portland: One of the great traditions of our democracy is the right of people to gather in non-violent protest. I have exercised this right on many occasions throughout my lifetime when I believed that non-violent public protest was essential to help overturn an injustice, to bring attention to a looming catastrophe, or to support an important advancement in social equality. People should feel free to gather in a non-violent manner - without the fear of extreme measures such as tear gas or pepper spray or most especially munitions. During some past protests in recent years here in Portland, such extreme police measures appear to have been used indiscriminately - often endangering not only the protestors but also the immediate surrounding residential community.

Certainly a police presence during protests is appropriate for general public safety, but so also is the use by those police of appropriate crowd control measures and only when absolutely essential, without escalation to the military-style extreme measures that so recently traumatized our community. Please do not allow these extreme tactics to be widely used once again! Please do not weaken the protections of HB 2928! Thank you for your consideration.