

Submitter: Marc Poris
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

I oppose the base wording and intent of HB 4131. It weakens restrictions on police use of tear gas and "less lethal" munitions on community members expressing their right to peacefully protest and street medics who are there to care for injured community members. We don't allow the use of tear gas in war ... we should not allow police to use it on members of the community.

Police need fewer tools that are designed to harm human beings. If police are going to show up at peaceful protests they need to learn how to use their words to de-escalate situations and they need to show up in attire that is not immediately threatening to the public. Showing up in full body armor as if there was a war in progress is not helpful.

Police are unable to target their use of tear gas on those community members who they believe are "breaking the law." That's just the way tear gas works. It spreads throughout the surrounding area and gets in people's homes. It needs to be banned altogether.

I do, however, support the wording of amendment HB 4131-3 which increases protections for community members expressing their right to peacefully protest.