

Submitter: Beatrix Li
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

Teargas has no place in our community.

Protests against police brutality should not be met with more police brutality. I believe we have gotten callous and numb in the way that we see violence. Teargas and impact munitions are war weapons that do not belong in our neighborhoods. I still remember the faces of teenagers, children, and mothers who were trapped in clouds of teargas and who were hurt on the streets. The worst part of it all is not when my eyes were burning, when breathing was nearly impossible, and my skin felt like it was on fire. The worst part was that I could not help others.

The wounds from the protests of 2020 have not yet healed. I see the scars, the brain damage, the PTSD, and the real fears of police violence happening again.

It is the role of the legislators to listen to community. We are community members who pour your coffee and stock your groceries. We have been harmed by teargas and impact munitions in ways that are long-lasting medically and psychologically.

Please end the use of teargas and impact munitions. Please reflect upon stories and the statistics of police violence in Oregon. This is not normal. We have become so militarized and violent, that we've become numb. We need to grieve and we need to right the wrongs. Laws and the lawlessness of the police is why children were screaming in their homes from the teargas. We are tired of this.

Thank you,
Beatrix