

To the members of the House Rules Committee,

We, the Criminal Justice Study Group of the Multnomah County Democratic Party, are writing in opposition to HB 4131 - Relating to the use of tools by law enforcement.

In the 2021 regular session of the Oregon State Legislature, HB 2928 passed and was signed into law on July 15, 2021. This law reflects the mandate of the people demanding that weapons of war NOT be used by the police. The testimony and documentation of the harm wrought on the community by police use of chemical, kinetic and sonic weapons is available from the previous session and in many current testimonies.

Nothing has changed regarding the detriment to our community this use of weapons represents. So why is HB 4131 introduced in the 2022 regular session? Clearly this is an attempt to deny the previous mandate and will reduce accountability for the actions of those who fail to protect and serve the people.

We must recognize that the use of these types of "tools" cannot provide community safety and it harms those who are exercising their basic right to assembly.

VOTE NO ON HB 4131

-Mark Fischer