

I am writing in support of HB 2928, for the regulation of chemical weapons, kinetic impact projectiles, and sound devices. In huge crowds all summer Portland Police used intimidation and violence to suppress people protesting harmful systemic racism. I saw first hand and heard or saw from others police meet these protests with more state violence. Large groups of almost entirely peaceful people being exposed to chemical weapons, and munitions is extremely concerning. I am also concerned by the lack of care shown by Portland Police for the health and well being of the residents they were hired to protect. The police intentionally traumatized and intimidated mostly peaceful protests. They had no consideration for the surrounding homeless population, apartments, schools, animals and environment when deploying tear gas and other crowd control measures. The long term effects of these chemicals seeping into the ground and water is sure to be negative for the health of all life. Previous legislature restricted use of tear gas unless declared a riot, so police would just declare a riot when nothing in the crowd had changed so that they could use chemical weapons on citizens. We must end qualified immunity so police officers can be held accountable for unjustified violent suppression of racial justice protesting.