

Submitter: Rosalind Lewis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4131

I am opposed to the use of chemical incapacitants by anyone, at any time, for any reason, and the fact that Oregon law currently permits their use by law enforcement, even under limited circumstances, is horrific. CS gas is illegal in international warfare and should never be used in domestic policing. Its use during a respiratory pandemic is especially monstrous. One of the only large studies ever conducted determined that even one exposure to CS gas weakened subjects' lifelong resistance to respiratory disease. By their very nature, these incapacitants cannot be used constitutionally. A single canister of tear gas can contaminate many city blocks and always places innocent people at risk. Too many of my neighbors had their homes, vehicles, parks, and schoolyards polluted with this dangerous substance, which has been linked to various cancers, menstrual irregularities, and miscarriage. Any law that does not ban its use outright is not a law that protects the public.