

Submitter: CJ Alicandro
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4131

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I strongly oppose the modifications proposed in HB 4131.

I'm very active in my community. I chair the Neighborhood Association, I'm treasurer at my synagogue, I volunteer on a budget advisory committee, etc. I'm also the direct recipient of violence from the Portland Police Bureau. All because a "riot" was declared while the majority of us were standing peacefully and shouting our criticisms. That's what a protest is. It's immensely frustrating that the PPB (or any other Oregon PD) can declare a riot when it suits them and escalate their violence to utilize tear gas and crowd-control munitions.

I have been physically knocked down by PPB officers, shot at with painful pellets, engulfed in tear gas clouds; all within a short walk from my apartment! Solely because I care enough about my community to show up and speak out when injustice is being committed by our state and government agencies. I'm certainly not trying to toot my own horn and seek out accolades. I'm just trying to help legislators understand that, in addition to folks who choose to throw water bottles or firecrackers, the majority of us on the receiving end of police violence are simply present. It just doesn't feel right to further empower police to enact physical violence against us and that's what it feels like this House Bill is seeking.

I can't see any good coming from increasing the options available to the state for violently repressing protestors and activists, I just can't. We're going to allow shooting rubber bullets at peoples' heads because we believe they may pose a threat? Even after seeing the damage it's caused so many reporters and protestors? I could go on and on but I'll stop here for your sake. Please consider voting against HB 4131 and standing with the public who, like you, are doing what they can to promote positive change in our communities.

Thank you for your time,
CJ Alicandro
House District 46