

Greetings to the esteemed members of this Judiciary Committee,

My name is Seemab Hussaini and I am a community organizer with a focus on supporting Black/Muslim/immigrant/refugee communities. I'm a co-founder of the state of Oregon's only Muslim civil rights org - CAIR-Oregon, a social justice and civil rights activist and Police Accountability Commissioner with the City of Portland to rebuild the new Portland Independent Police Review Board.

I'm here today in hopes to join my communities and advocates in disapproval of HB 4131. I am of the communities directly impacted by the actions of the Portland Police Bureau, and their indiscriminate use of force against protesters.

I was present with my colleague and a family of 4, one of whom was pregnant on Tuesday (6/2/20), while grieving the loss of George Floyd and many others lost to the brutality of law enforcement. During what could be considered the down time after a large community event that day where notable speakers including community organizers and one who is now an Oregon Senator, this was a crowd draw that flashed images of solidarity for George Floyd across the nation. A notable one in black and white aerial view of a crowd over the Burnside bridge. As we took in the day's meaning on the corner of 4th and Salmon, a fence went up on Taylor, stacking the most heavily equipped riot police on the other side, and on a Long Range Acoustic Device also known by the acronym LRAD demanding us to not touch the fence. This set the stage for an escalation. It escalated. They "kettled" the crowd and shut down any safe direction of exit. Kinetic Impact Projectiles and Chemical Incapacitants like CS gas and triple chasers rained inward from 5th and 3rd Ave. The family that broke away from my colleague and I unknowingly went straight towards 3rd ave and was fired upon, with everything. There was one to aim these munitions at. We are families, social workers, doctors and nurses (many of whom are documented street medics throughout the protests, community organizers, legislative staffers, and everyone else. These munitions are Indiscriminate.

Since that day, I've spent dozens of nights out during the protests, observing and being a repeated victim of batons let alone these impact and chemical munitions. There has never been a moment that the Portland Police wouldn't just call out the circumstances constitute a riot

I cannot profess to fully understand the dichotomous relationship police have with protesters demanding accountability, vs. the far-right and white supremacist elements that espouse nothing but hate, disinformation, and intolerance much of the times for a faith they have no understanding of, and feel protected by our local law enforcement throughout the state, to espouse actual violent ideologies. But no police force should ever have access to more tools of escalation when they haven't even nailed down deescalation.

Thank you.