

Submitter: Ashlee Albies  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4008

Testimony in support of HB 4008-8

HB 4008-8 regulates police use of force while protecting people's right to gather and freely express themselves. Police use of force is an incredibly important issue and governed by the 4th Amendment. HB 4008-8 reinforces the Constitutional principle that when police are legally allowed to use force, that force must be reasonable and only against people against whom the force is justified. People must believe they are treated fairly and equally under the law. State law and the federal constitution do not grant special consideration when it comes to use of force in a crowd situation.

Tear gas, a chemical weapon that causes pain and is banned in warfare, and flash bangs, are indiscriminate weapons which terrify and harm all who are near, should not be ever used where they can impact people engaged in peaceful protest. HB 4008-8 aligns with the requirements of the 1st and 4th Amendments to the Constitution, and should be passed to protect Oregonian's rights. For these reasons, as a civil rights attorney, I oppose HB 4131-1, support HB 4008-8, and urge you to do the same.