

Submitter: Sandy Chung  
On Behalf Of: Community Member 14  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4131

Community member 14, Portland: Beyond the obvious that police officers should never be empowered to decide that people no longer have first amendment rights to assemble and voice their opinions, it is inappropriate to administer a large-scale response to a crowd of people. Using chemical weapons, sound devices, or "nonlethal" bullets damages nerves, eardrums, and bodies. These weapons have the potential to cause lasting harm. My first amendment rights were violated in summer 2020, when I could no longer voice dissent of police practices without fear of retaliation that could land me in the hospital.

Tear gas and sound devices affect not only their intended targets, but anyone within a radius. Even if a group of people were to threaten the safety of an officer, it is inhumane and financially wasteful to attack people who are not connected to that group.