

Submitter: Sandy Chung
On Behalf Of: Community Member 15
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4131

Community member 15, Portland: There have not been enough studies completed to determine how exposure to tear gas affects human health and the environment. Myself and others have experienced short and long term impacts to our health; primarily those w bodies that have uteruses.

In 2020 we experienced what an unfettered police force bent on dumping chemical weapons and using “less lethals” on citizens looks like. PPB relied on these tools to assist them in managing protests rather than working to address the demands of the people. With these types of weapons in hand, it was clear that they would escalate force as long and as much as they were able to.

Tear gas does not discriminate. Portlanders in their homes, children and animals were all impacted by tear gas. “Less lethals” we’re not used correctly, rather indiscriminately shot into the crowd and often in ways that caused injuries that were life threatening or caused long term harm.

Police have not demonstrated the self control to use these weapons. Even without these weapons at their disposal, they act violently within the community. They don’t need more weapons, they need more accountability.