

Submitter: Gabrielle Roth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 4131, which weakens restrictions on police use of tear gas and munition weapons against protesters and street medics.

Here's why: Portland Police in particular have:

- disproportionately used these weapons on folks protesting police violence. (That in itself should tell you all you need to know.)
- done irreparable harm with chemical and projectile weapons (e.g. the young person still suffering the effects of a head injury inflicted by the police in 2020).
- targeted everyone in the area, including the media and legal observers
- deployed chemical weapons in residential areas, affecting people while in their own homes or going to and from work

In addition to the social costs, this is costing Portland actual money in the form of lawsuits against the police.

The police have not shown that they can responsibly use these weapons.

Please reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Roth