

Submitter: Eloise Parish Mueller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

Members of the Committee:

Despite historic public involvement and justified anger about the ongoing horrors of police violence in communities across the US, there has been shamefully little action from policy makers (including in Oregon) to address the fact that our “public safety” system is based on racist and oppressive law enforcement institutions which respond to both public dissent and vulnerable people and communities with abusive force and repressive tactics. After learning that one of the few measures put in place during this period to counter the militarization and brutality of police forces in Oregon is at jeopardy of being rolled back, I knew I could not be silent about this issue. There can be no semblance of democracy or civil rights if civilians are not allowed to protest and challenge injustice. The use of life threatening chemical substances and munitions weapons on members of the public, whether those engaged in protest or simply bystanders, is the signature of authoritarian regimes. It has no place in Oregon streets. If Oregon cities want people to protest and resist less, they should address the abuses and injustices that lead to the righteous anger of their residents in the first place, such as their ongoing funding of militarized policing instead of essential needs such as health services, housing, and adequate responses to the climate crisis. Stand up for the civil rights and safety of your constituents and all Oregonians and oppose this dangerous and anti democratic bill.

Thank you,
Eloise Parish Mueller