

Submitter: Aaron Fischer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

Dear Committee Members

I am writing in strong support of HB 4131 as a resident of Portland I witnessed months upon months of riots, lawlessness, vandalism, assaults, and even murder in Portland, Oregon at the hands of activists. By limiting the use of crowd control tools you are limiting the police to two options either using higher levels of force or entirely giving up and letting rioters do whatever they want. Most Portland residents are fed up with the disruption, vandalism, and waste of taxpayer dollars caused by the criminal acts of activists who engage in criminal conduct. We need to stop tying the hands of our law enforcement and allow them to use the same tools that every other state allows police in their respective streets to use. I'm certain activists and the ACLU of Oregon will come and tell you their narrative but the video from riots in Portland is out there. You can see how violent riots got and how activists tried to kill officers and members of the public using everything from Molotov cocktails to firearms. The African American community even called out this violence multiple times.

Our communities are less safe when activists and lawmakers try to take away tools that police use to keep us safe. Should police be held accountable if they use excessive force? Yes! But don't take away less than lethal crowd control tools because your going to see law enforcement left with no choice but to ignore riots because the only other option is higher levels of force and I don't think they want to use higher levels of force.