

Submitter: annie capestany
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

I was a nonviolent protester in 2020 and i was repeatedly teargassed. I never broke any laws, unless you consider standing in the street with a sign as illegal. We do not need a weapon that is not even allowed in war zones to be used against citizens. There is clear evidence that tear gas has negative health effects, particularly on women and their menstrual cycles. We still don't know how much damage was done by all the tear gas that went into our water during the 2020 protests. Tear gas is indiscriminate and ineffective. Protesters just wait til the air clears. Cities need to engage with their citizens and address the issues that concern their citizens, not unleash poison on them. Free speech and nonviolent protesting is LEGAL. Police should not be allowed to use teargas just cuz politicians don't like what protesters are saying. We need to rein in the police, not give them more weapons to brutalize citizens. That this bill was even proposed is outrageous. The use of teargas in 2020 did not help the police and did not stop the protests. It only made things worse. Don't allow police to use poison. Vote no on this bill.