

Submitter: Robin Burgess

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4106

The use of physical force and restraints against people with disabilities and mental health diagnoses by law enforcement introduces needless escalation to an already traumatic experience, and has been shown time and time again to result in serious injuries and even death. In December 2023, Jean Deschamps died handcuffed to a wheelchair while Milwaukie police officers attempted to transport him to Unity Behavioral Health in critical condition.

As a disabled person myself, I know of many members of my community who have suffered needless violent acts during mental health crises, including physical restraint and withholding lifesaving medication. Many of my friends have safety plans in place specifically to address such scenarios, but most disabled people lack a support system to have such a plan in place.

We are at our most vulnerable when experiencing mental health crisis, and the last thing we need is legislation that will give "peace" officers carte blanche to harm us in this state.

Vote no on HB 4106.