

Secretary: Vote explanation. Sen Boquist.

“HB 4203A is supposed to ban choke holds but it does not in any manner. The bill was gutted for political reasons obviously under duress in some manner. Maybe a due to public employee unions opposition as the media reports. The bill was amended to add placating language to protestors of color instead of any actual ban. This is wrong. The text of bill says a choke hold is “not justified” in “any circumstances” then provides a complete 100% exemption for “peace officers” citing ORS 161.239. If an officer thinks a felony may be at issue then the choke hold is allowable. Any resistance is a felony so the choke hold is fully justified by the new law. If the officers believes his or her “personal safety is endangered” a choke hold is authorized. The bill is a falsehood, a sham, and an ugly placation that will not save a single life. The Speaker of the House knows this fact. Every legislator in the State Senate should know this fact. The Governor supposedly called a emergency session to take action on police accountability. Instead, the Legislature is passing ‘do nothing’ bills that very well may cost the lives of additional Oregon citizens. Citizens should demand action to both regulate and protect police not political posturing. Voted No.”