



CEASEFIRE oregon

April 8, 2013

Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
Oregon State House of Representatives

Re: Ceasefire Oregon on HB 3009 and HB 3114, Zeph Schafer's Testimony

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members,

I am a resident of Portland and am currently a junior at the University of Oregon, double majoring in history and economics. I am also a member of the board of directors of Ceasefire Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to House Bill 3009 and in support of House Bill 3114.

The two bills under consideration today will determine whether the university has the authority to set rules for firearms on our campus and other university campuses in the state. The presence of firearms on the University of Oregon campus directly affects my life and the lives of my friends and my professors. I believe it is important for members of the committee to consider carefully how students live when making this decision.

Students live and study in close proximity to each other 24 hours a day. We live either in dorms or in shared housing arrangements that are fluid; roommates move out, and new ones are frequently chosen based on short acquaintance and their ability to pay rent. Social groups are also fluid. Friends of roommates show up unannounced and are invited in. At a weekend party, the hosts may not know half the people who arrive at the door, but will welcome them anyway. It's not uncommon to find someone you don't know sleeping on your couch when you get up in the morning. This lifestyle makes it hard to secure a gun, even assuming the owner has the maturity to make that a priority. It is similar to the circumstances of the Clackamas Town Center shooter, who obtained his gun from the unlocked closet of a friend when he spent the night after a party.

You have to be 21 to get a concealed handgun license, but you have to be 21 to buy alcohol too. Many students are over 21, and if guns are allowed on campus, the age restriction won't limit underage access to them any more than it limits access to alcohol. It is no secret that students drink, and some of them drink a lot, with obvious results. Weekend parties are full of interpersonal drama, and regrets the next morning are common. On a weekend night, drunk students, testosterone flaring, can be heard in the street urging each other to new heights of stupidity or fighting. It makes no sense at all to add guns to this environment.

I believe students will be alarmed if campus restrictions on firearms are lifted. Right now, even the plan to arm campus police is controversial with students.¹ There is concern that common student conduct (or sometimes misconduct) like political demonstrations or after-game celebrations can turn deadly if the campus security is armed. Adding students' and visitors' guns to these scenarios just increases the likelihood that someone will get shot.

On a daily basis, students have access to security arrangements that are not available in the wider community. In addition to a campus police force, our campus is dotted with blue beacon lights

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Vote Yes on HB 3114 and No on HB 3009

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where we can call security. We have access to a "safe ride" system that anyone can use if they need it. Orientation includes instruction on how to stay safe when moving around the campus, and we get regular alerts from the authorities about incidents that take place. Unlike guns, these are security arrangements that don't put other people at risk.

In conclusion, I believe that security should be the responsibility of the university community and that it is very unwise to force Oregon colleges and universities to allow guns on campus. I urge the committee members to pass House Bill 3114 and to vote against House Bill 3009.

Zeph Schafer

Board Member, Ceasefire Oregon

Student, University of Oregon

1. Samantha Matsumoto, "What the UO's transition from public safety officers to police officers means for campus," *Daily Emerald*, March 10, 2013, <http://dailyemerald.com/2013/03/10/what-the-uos-transition-from-public-safety-officers-to-police-officers-means-for-campus/>