

Dear Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, Co-Vice Chair Girod, Co-Vice Chair Drazan and members of the committee,

I am a student at Oregon State University and here is one experience I had with police. In fall 2019, I had a panic attack in front of multiple people at Owen Hall. A concerned professor had campus security come by to ensure I was OK. Not because I did anything wrong-- basically a wellness check. A state police officer also showed up. He was very kind and understanding to me. The officer had zero intent to arrest me or press charges.

Fast forward a couple weeks. Same campus, same police force. A black woman was riding by on her bike. An officer stopped her to question her. When she exercised her constitutional right to not answer, she was attacked and arrested. From what I recall reading, she was handcuffed for 45 minutes.

I still think of this with shock. One of my greatest fears in life is getting arrested. It would be a severe anxiety trigger considering my past with an abusive stepparent. The only thing standing between me and one of my worst fears in life that day was the color of my skin.

Thank you for your time.