

Oregon Student Association



Good morning members of the committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am first year student at the University of Oregon studying Ethnic Studies and Spanish. I am a part time Policy Associate for the Oregon Student Association and I also sit on the Oregon Students of Color Coalition. I would like to thank all the members who form part of the committee for your time.

The Oregon Student Association is a statewide, student-led organization that represents over 100,000 students in public postsecondary education in Oregon.

Today I ask that you vote yes on Senate Bill 576 which would affect the safety of students in higher education. In 2016, Kaylee Sawyer was abducted and murdered by a campus security officer at the Central Oregon Community College. This is not acceptable. The people who are supposed to keep our students safe, abused their power and took the life of Kaylee.

We can prevent situations like this from happening again by passing SB 576. This bill would protect students from stop and frisk as it happens a lot on campuses which impact all students, but students of color, LGBTQIA+, and students who are homeless are impacted at a higher rate. There are stories nationwide, that indicate that students have been racially profiled because of stop and frisk in college campuses. Studies also indicate that racially profiling students negatively impacts students ability to succeed in school. A recent article highlighted that, in Portland that the police department and Resource Officers arrest black students three times more than their counterparts.

SB 576 would eliminate the look a like appearance of campus security and sworn police officers in regards to transportation and personal appearance. The appearance of vehicles used for campus security officers would be clearly distinct from those who are used by certified police officers. In addition to that, the bill would also mandate that the campus security vehicles have a GPS device on board along with a camera that would be able to capture the activities of the driver along with the passengers on board. Better background checks is also something this bill highlights so that individuals who are hired are in fact suitable for the job. This

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For more information contact Perla Alvarez, Legislative Director perla@orstudents.org or 503-358-2927
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will make our campuses safer. And although it will not impact the University of Oregon directly, I stand in solidarity with other campuses.

Just because this happened once does not mean it should happen again. I urge you to take this testimony into consideration and vote yes on SB 576. Thank you once again for your time.

Respectfully,
Odalis Aguilar Aguilar
She/her/ella
Policy Associate, Oregon Student Association

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