

Lane County Sheriff's Office

Byron M. Trapp, Sheriff



March 18, 2019

Chair Williamson, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Hjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Place on the record for HB 3338

Dear Chair Williamson, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I have served my community through the Lane County Sheriff's Office for over 31 years, the last four as the elected sheriff. I am writing you in strong opposition to House Bill 3338 and the disarming of our university police officers.

It is unconscionable to consider disarming our police forces. Law enforcement is a challenging profession with many risks. Taking away the basic ability for a law enforcement officer to protect their community and defend themselves is an affront to all our officers, troopers and deputies. All Oregon law enforcement officers, including our university police officers, are subject to the same high standards of professional training, performance and moral fitness for certification as peace officers by this state. Our university police officers are no different than any other of Oregon's dedicated law enforcement professionals.

Lane County law enforcement is severely under resourced and all our community partnerships in public safety are critical. Having the University of Oregon Police Department (UOPD) in service for the past several years has reduced the university's demand for public safety services on area law enforcement agencies for routine law enforcement needs as well as the very resource demanding sporting events. The UOPD also provides a quicker response to incidents on campus than local police, and offers campus-specific services not available from local policing organizations.

Being armed is critical to the ability of our university police officers to safely and effectively perform their basic duties such as traffic safety enforcement and emergency response to weapon-involved or other violent events on campus. If the university police departments are unable to provide these critical services it will cause dangerous delays in law enforcement response and create a burden on other area law enforcement, diverting critical public safety resources from other community residents.

Our students have the right to be as well protected in the learning environment as they would be at home and our universities have a duty to give students and employees the best protection possible. Please support Oregon law enforcement and public safety by not passing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron M. Trapp".

Byron M. Trapp
Sheriff