

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The concern for campus safety is appreciated with respect to the probable intentions of the proposed House Bill 3338. However, I am very confident that this is will more than likely jeopardize the safety and security of Oregon public university campuses, and the campus that I personally attend, Portland State University. Allow me to share why I feel this way.

This bill will disallow campus security officers to respond to a violent threat that may require lethal force. Just recently an individual armed with a rifle attempted to [carjack a student](#) on March 8th of this year. Luckily, the victim escaped and the suspect left without incident, yet what good would campus office firearms do if they cannot leave the headquarters? It really is nonsense, and disincentivizes campus security to respond appropriately to reported threats. Even though the campus security office is only a few minutes from anywhere on campus, I sincerely doubt the perpetrator would be willing to walk there to allow a campus security officer to deploy his firearm in compliance with the proposed legislation. It really is ridiculous, and not only insulting to students, but greatly insulting to the professionals who work on campus to ensure our safety.

Just recently, a couple PSU students and I became targeted by a knife-wielding homeless man near the Douglas fir trailers by SW Mill & SW 11th. The knife-wielding man followed the students with the knife making threats. When I called the police he then started chasing me, but I was armed with a knife, as well other objects I used to keep distance from him. He left campus abruptly and ended up getting arrested by [Portland Police](#)

I am fairly familiar with the sentiment against campus officers retaining firearms. I understand why some people may feel somewhat weary of the police, but they are still people, and they actually risk their lives for us all. Do their lives not have value? Also, PSU alumni and current students comprise 70% of the CPSO force. They will have a much more intimate understanding of the campus when responding to calls on campus when compared to the Portland Police who have a much broader responsibility and less intimate knowledge of the campus.

The violence perpetrated by a select few of the homeless population is a very real issue, especially when it comes in the shape of [deadly weapons](#) more commonly used for maiming. The homeless population will increase in size, visibility, and activity, and the possibility for violence on campus will become a higher probability. I do hope you care enough to allow our campus security to do their job in the midst of potential for violence, and especially in the event of a mass shooting, as they are becoming ever more [commonplace](#).

Please vote against this bill, because it may leave our campus vulnerable to violent attacks that can, and will be prevented by armed campus officers.

Very Respectfully,

Jonathon Cavada