

Eugene Police Employees' Association
300 Country Club Road
Eugene, Oregon 97401



March 19, 2019

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The Eugene Police Employees' Association urges you to vote NO on HB 3338, which would effectively disarm University Police Officers in Oregon. This bill is a misguided effort which will increase risks not only to the involved peace officers, but to their law enforcement partners and to the university communities themselves.

University police officers are certified by the State of Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST,) just like peace officers employed by City, County, and State agencies. They are required to meet all DPSST standards including education, fitness-for-duty, training and ethical requirements. They must continue to meet State standards to continue their employment.

University officers are, by the nature of their job and focused training, intimately familiar with university geography and facilities, and have better access to buildings and university administration than outside agencies, and they are directly accountable to their schools' administrations. Because of this, they are in a unique position to provide excellent service to their communities. They conduct all investigations related to their respective universities, including felony-level persons crimes.

Additionally, university peace officers are a significant resource to their outside partnering agencies. In the event of an immediate threat involving neighboring communities, armed university officers add a layer of protection and additional staffing. In Eugene, we have experienced this level of interagency cooperation countless times since the establishment of the University of Oregon Police Department.

This effort to require university peace officers to patrol in an unarmed capacity creates a significant threat to the safety of the officers, the officers of partnering agencies, and the university communities. Again, we urge you to oppose HB 3338.

Thank you,

Scott Dillon

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Eugene Police Employees' Association