

Chair Williamson and the members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing you all to voice my opposition to HB 3338. This bill, obviously and unfairly, targets PSU and UO under the false assumption that due to our location in metropolitan areas we have access and adequate response from the local municipal armed police departments. It is a belief that we therefore have no need for our own armed police.

The reality is quite the opposite. If we are required to to utilize municipal services for necessary response, we will not receive a satisfactory level of police services on campus. Beyond the same level of training that all police receive in this state, our university officers are embedded within our community and leadership teams. They are fully engaged across campus with University Housing, Student Health and Counseling, the Dean of Students office, Student Conduct office, Disability Resource Center and many more. Quite simply the university police department's engagement and community outreach cannot be duplicated by outside police forces. We know this from decades of experience while being required to utilize an external agency for police services. We know this from decades of experience with little to no community outreach nor engagement. Our campuses deserve better, and that can only be with our own fully sworn, trained and equipped police force.

Disarming campus controlled police department does not create safe and secure campuses. We deal with the same property crime, the same person on person crime, the same transient issues as the rest of the central city. Disarming campus police does not prevent guns from being on campus. Disarming campus police does not change the reality that armed officers are necessary for ensuring the safety of our community. It simply prevents the university from having any control over the response of armed officers on our campus. It places campus response at the whims of outside agency's priorities, staffing issues, and management directives.

This bill lacks reason, will not create positive public outcomes, and will put our communities at risk.

Thank you for your time,

Donald Forsythe

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