

TO: The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair
Oregon House Judiciary Committee

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Representative Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair

Representative Jeff Barker, Member
Representative Janelle Bynum, Member
Representative Mitch Greenlick, Member
Representative Rick Lewis, Member
Representative Mike McLane, Member
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Representative Karin Power, Member
Representative Duane Stark, Member

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FROM: Roger Kent Kirchner
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SUBJECT: Opposition Statement - HB 3338

I strongly oppose HB 3338. I am a senior citizen that regularly audits courses at Portland State University in downtown Portland. When I'm on the PSU campus I become well-acquainted with the diversified population that frequents the area; students of all ages, transients, homeless, etc. PSU is by no means unique. This is the situation on every campus nationwide; public and private. Just visit Willamette University, my Alma Mater, across the street from the Capitol. Campus safety is of paramount concern to those on any campus and is the concern of the public as a whole.

August 1, 1966, Charles Whitman stabbed his wife and mother to death and then engaged in a 96-minute shooting rampage from the observation deck of The Tower building at the University of Texas. I worked with a colleague whose brother was killed, one of the 17 dead and 31 injured.

November 12, 1966, five were killed and 18 shot at Rose-Mar College of Beauty in Mesa, Arizona. The shooter sought to emulate Whitman cited above.

November 1, 1991, a former graduate student at the University of Iowa shot and killed four faculty and administrators in the physics and astronomy department, injured another before committing suicide.

April 16, 2007, a 23-year old student at Virginia Tech University shot and killed 32 students and faculty before committing suicide. The shooting occurred in more than one building.

February 14, 2008, a former sociology student at Northern Illinois University shot and killed five and injured 21 before committing suicide. At the time, the killer was enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

April 2, 2012, a mentally ill former student of Oikos University, a Korean Christian college in Oakland, killed seven and injured three others.

June 7, 2013, a former student killed his father and brother and carjacked a stranger to drive to Santa Monica College. Armed with an AR-15 type semi-automatic rifle, he shot at vehicles before entering the library killing five and injuring four. The shooter was shot by police officers and he later died.

October 1, 2015, at **Umpqua Community College**, a 26-year-old student walked into a classroom and shot and killed nine and injured another nine. Notably, he asked at least two students what their religion was before he shot them. He committed suicide following a gunfight with police officers.

In addition to these incidents on college campuses, Oregonians remember the campus shootings and deaths that occurred in **Springfield High School**, and **Reynolds High School**.

The unfortunate situation is this. It doesn't matter the size of community where campuses exist, educational institutions are vulnerable to violent incidents requiring trained, professional, armed intervention.

PSU has both Campus Safety Officers, and Sworn Safety Officers. Both types are highly trained. Campus Safety Officers are trained to intervene with disputes, mental breakdowns, common urgent needs e.g. a student locked out of their room; forgotten keys. Sworn Officers respond with dispatch to any violent incident.

Response time is critical to any situation. It takes the Portland Police Bureau a minimum of 20-minutes to respond to an incident at Portland State; PSU Sworn Officers respond in three! Now, you tell me, wouldn't you want your child/student's safety to be enhanced by a rapid response?

Some incidents may be best resolved by social intervention, violent incidents aren't those. One cannot ask a shooter to sing *Kumbaya*; it doesn't work. Disarming police, or requiring them to leave their sidearms in the office, is like sending troops to battle with broom handles.

HB 3338, as drafted, is punitive to the University of Oregon and Portland State University. Any incident is just as likely on any campus regardless of its size or the community in which it is found.

Portland State has done an exemplary job in providing training for its Campus Safety and Sworn officers. I can't vouch for all campuses. If the committee wishes to investigate the training provided campus officers at all public and private colleges and universities, well and good.

HB 3338 should not pass out of your committee.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my viewpoint.

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