

HB3338 Testimony Please vote against this Bill.

To: House Judiciary Committee members

From: Kay L. Bridges, a Washington County Resident, Tigard, Oregon 503.671.0218

Having owned and run a retail business for 25 years and performed my civic duty by running for State Representative and MESD...I have been privileged to discuss safety issues with a wide range of people. My husband was an Armament Specialist in the USAF and then served as a Washington County Reserve Deputy for several years.

It defies all logic for a person to train with a firearm, be hired to provide security and defend people against any and all attacks or violence and then to expect them to be disarmed to perform those duties.

By disarming them you would be asking them to be walking targets. You would be asking them to allow those they are sworn to protect to become walking targets. You would allow the evil doers free reign on the campus.

People who intend to harm others will go where there is no risk of harm to themselves. Then the question becomes "Which campus has armed police and which does not?"

After writing the above remarks I took the time to read all 25 of the Testimonies that were submitted to you on line. I came away with 2 thoughts after reading those letters:

1 – People who are afraid of guns continue to concentrate on their fear of guns regardless of the benefits of armed officers. They are simply afraid. They concentrate on all the bad things that have happened. They have no solution to the fears except to "not see a gun" or "not see a police officer uniform" or "not see an armed officer". They do not think about protecting others, they just want to not see things that make them afraid. They believe all the bad things they've experienced will continue to happen "just because an officer is armed".

2 – Disarming trained police officers puts everyone at risk. Why would you ask an unarmed officer to confront someone with a weapon? Would you rush to stop a person with a gun if you did not have a weapon yourself?

I urge you to read carefully the letters from the Sheriff, from the wife of an officer, from the parent and UofO employee, from the student, and others who truly understand that we have a problem with safety. Unlike the sponsors of this bill, they know that a trained campus police officer is crucial to maintaining a culture of safety on campus. They know that campus police have unique knowledge of the campus.

They cite circumstances where the homeless and drug users invade the campus of schools and make students less safe. They have compelling messages for you about why the training of officers on campus is uniquely beneficial to the safety of the campus. How that training is beneficial to the community.

I cannot begin to summarize all they've said here.

What officer in their right mind would run toward an active shooter without a weapon. Would you?

I urge you to table this Bill as ill-conceived. Vote no.

Respectfully,