

Hello members of the committee,

My name is Maya Date, I am a third year at the University of Oregon, and I am here asking you to vote yes on HB 3338. While I could fill several pages discussing my own personal experiences with police in both Portland and Eugene, I want to instead discuss the larger reasoning of why these experiences help me understand why the UOPD needs to be disarmed and reformed.

The first step that needs to be taken is disarming UOPD officers of their weapons in student spaces. For me and many other students, it is incredibly triggering to be put face to face with Officers in Uniform who carry weapons.

For some students seeing an armed officer on campus does not rattle them in the same way, but this is because they don't share the same experiences with armed police. I hear the argument that disarming campus police could make some students feel less safe, but what about all of the students that currently fear their lives when they are on campus, day in and day out, seeing militarized police vehicles and officers with guns and tasers?

I have had the opportunity to make attempts to work alongside the UOPD, however I have been continually disappointed by the outcomes of our interactions. There is some acknowledgement that police needs to work on its relations with communities it has historically targeted, but in order to do that the police must listen to the wants of the community.

Earlier this year I invited Chief Matthew Carmichael to speak in my class about incarceration, I wanted to provide him with an opportunity to speak on behalf of police and the efforts they could make to improve their current programming and procedures. However instead the Chief took this as an opportunity to show up with a fully loaded gun to a lecture class in the middle of the day, with no thought to how that was triggering for some students. He then proceeded to pace on stage nervously and defensively for an hour, refused questions, and discussed how all communities regardless of race appreciated having police in their communities. The entire presentation was a mess and offensive, more than that it made the students of color in that class feel reaffirm that the campus police are not listening to us and will never be.

On a fact-based side, the crimes committed within a several block radius of campus, which are all supposedly logged by the EPD and UOPD, are rarely violent, but quality of life crimes that do not require officers to be armed.

For these reasons, it is imperative that you vote yes on HB 3338 and disarm the UOPD.