

Hello members of the committee,

Hello, my name is Bill Yang and I am currently a first year at the University of Oregon and an ASUO intern. I am here to ask you to vote yes on HB 3338 and disarm the UOPD on our campus.

Coming from a high school where there was one police officer and then coming to the University of Oregon and seeing armed police on campus has been a radically different experience. Although, police officers are meant to protect and serve it doesn't always feel like that -- why is it that we act differently around police officers. They're there to protect us, but why am I afraid that they're going to abuse their power or that I'm going to be end up shot.

A couple weeks ago my Latino friend I were walking to 7-11 and we had gotten a couple sodas. A police officer pulled up to us and started accusing my friend I of having controlled substances, and we simply had Mountain Dews. In that moment I was nervous because we hadn't done anything wrong, and isn't that how every wrongful death story always starts. The officer was profiling my friend I because we are people of color. He wasn't judging us on anything other than the fact that we weren't white. He doesn't know that I'm an honor roll student or that I wish to be a lawyer when I grow up.

We live in a culture where we've seen some police have killed people for having a toy gun, for being in their own apartment or simply for being Black. We have seen that having more police does not make communities safer, and we have seen some police have been quick to pull out guns when they should be used as a last resort effort. At the University of Oregon, we should cultivate a safe and open community where all students regardless of race should be walking without fear. The University of Oregon claims to "value our diversity and seek[s] to foster equity and inclusion in a welcoming, safe, and respectful community. In order to do this we must make a safe and welcoming community we need to listen to the experiences of all the students attending the university and for this reason I urge you to vote yes on HB 3338.