

Hello Chair Williamson and members of the committee and thank you for taking the time to have this hearing today.

My name is Maria Alejandra Gallegos-Chacon, I am a 4th year student, and I am the ASUO student body president. And I am here in support of HB 3338 to disarm PSU and UO campus police. My constituents of color, trans and queer, and houseless students do not want police to be armed for the fear that their lives will be taken away. The AAUP-Oregon and the UAUO (our faculty union) have already endorsed this bill alongside with us.

I can testify to being treated unfairly by campus police myself. My freshman year, my then partner and I were driving from campus to our dorm on patterson. Barnhart is off campus and we knew we would be on campus late for a MEChA event, so we decided to drive instead of walk. We took my car but at the end of the day I had a headache and didn't want to drive and I asked my partner to drive. He's very tall, larger, and brown. When we left campus we noticed a police vehicle tailing us off campus and just what we feared he turned on his lights and pulled us over. The usual questions for license and registration were said but the issue was that it was not his car, it was mine so I explained my headache. We were both so nervous not because we had something to hide but because he was not a citizen. There was no reason presented for us being pulled over, I had asked if we were going to get a ticket and was ignored. The officer then asked to search our car and gave no reason as to why. We were both so scared that we didn't think to say no even though we do have that right, because the situation was already so tense. We let the officers look through my car briefly and then we were let off to go home. I don't think either one of us had ever felt so scared or violated before, for absolutely no valid reason other than they probably thought my partner looked suspicious.

I want you all to understand that this treatment is not unique. I want you to know that this happens to Black and Brown men all the time on campus, and out in the world. We know that racial profiling is an issue and we know that Black people are shot and killed at a disproportionate rate in this country. What happened to Jason Washington is not a unique experience in the US. By only looking at the facts we know that students of color are more likely to be shot and killed by police, and most of the time for no other reason than poorly made fast decisions.

So there is no reason to have armed police on a campus setting like Eugene where the #1 crime committed is bike theft. UOPD will still have access to guns in an active shooter emergency, but there is no reason that guns are necessary in day to day business. We live in a society were some cops will make mistakes that cost our community's lives, and for that reason you should support HB 3338. Thank you.