

Hello members of the committee,

My name is Tan Perkins and I am a 4th year student at the University of Oregon. My sophomore and junior year of college I was an RA in the universities resident halls, this meant that I interacted with the police on a weekly basis. As an RA I was conflicted with having to involve armed police with small issues like marijuana, residents are already frightened and filled with anxiety when an RA knocks on their door and when they opened the door to not only see two RA's but a fully armed officer, in kevlar, and with a gun they were in complete shock. Although I was in a position of power I felt very unsafe interacting with the police officers. I myself have been misgendered, and felt very uncomfortable. I have witnessed my residents feel unsafe and seen officers act aggressively towards defensiveness students. Seeing students feel this way in the closest thing they have to a home is never okay.

In U.S. people are killed by the police weekly, and with the events at PSU with Jason Washington, it is not a stretch that this can happen anywhere. At the University of Oregon we saw officers pull a gun on a student last spring who was the wrong suspect in a petty theft chase, this could have easily ended in a tragedy.

In an academic setting having fully armed police is upsetting to many of us, many who are simply studying in common spaces, or visiting with friends a fully armed officer can change the mood immediately and make people feel unsafe and wary in their own university. We know that people of color are killed by police at an alarming rate and this why I urge you to support house bill 3338.