

# Oregon Student Association



March 20th, 2019

Good afternoon members of the committee,

My name is Lucia Villafuerte-Espinal, I use she/her pronouns, I am a first-generation Latina student, a second year at Portland State University and I am for the disarmament of campus police at both Portland State University and at the University of Oregon also known as HB 3338 the Safer Campuses Bill.

As a student of color, I feel unsafe in a place that it supposed to be a safe space for students. We should not have to fear that one day we might end up getting shot at because someone made the wrong assumption blaming a person of color when we were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. I commute to campus everyday to get an education and I should be allowed to feel safe when setting foot on this campus but I do not. Portland State University choosing to ignore its students when they ask to disarm PSU shows us just how much they care about people of color on this campus. Portland State choosing to be ignorant towards meeting the demands of Jason Washington's family and students shows everyone how much they care. I care about my own safety and the lives of other people of color on this campus and I am so disgusted with the administration here at PSU. I am attending a university that protects and graduates a rapist while trying to silence his victims and a university that won't fire the killer cops of Jason Washington and prefers profit over people. To me, Portland State University does not care about its students instead all they care about is the money. Students have been protesting for years to disarm PSU and now they have blood on their hands and will still not disarm its campus police.

The word diversity does not mean anything here on the campus if students of color are constantly being seen as a threat. I feel very uncomfortable being on campus knowing there are guns around me. I am uncomfortable when I see campus police staring at me from a distance. I am uncomfortable seeing campus police walk around campus with a gun in their pocket. I am uncomfortable when campus police "stop by" La Casa Latina, my safe space on campus to "say hi". La Casa Latina at Portland State is a safe space for Latinx students to go and study, meet other Latinx students, and a place for us where we can simply feel welcome. La Casa feels like home so it should be a safe space for students but due to them stopping by it doesn't make me and the other students feel safe at all.

I fully support the disarmament of campus police at both Portland State University and the University of Oregon (HB 3338) so that not one more student or alumni of color is shot and killed and left without justice. We matter and higher education should not be a risk to people of color.

Thank you for your time,  
Lucia Villafuerte-Espinal

## OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

For more information contact Perla Alvarez, Legislative Director [perla@orstudents.org](mailto:perla@orstudents.org) or 503-358-2927  
635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | [@OregonStudents](https://twitter.com/OregonStudents)