

Hello,

I hope that House Bill 3338 does not pass. Police Officers should be armed. Every police expert in the entire country would testify to this. In fact there is no reason with any merit that would suggest police officers should not be armed.

Look at PSU, the shooting of Jason Washington. Jason Washington was armed with a gun, which he removed from a holster, took up a shooting position and then began to aim the gun (first at a crowd of people), then at the Police Officers. This was proved with body camera footage, witness statements, and physical evidence. No one in the crowd had a gun or any other weapon out when Jason Washington did this. We will never know what Jason Washington was going to do after he took aim, but what we know is that there was no need for him to do this. The Officers saw Jason Washington do this and then saw him point the gun in their direction.

Many false narratives about the above incident lead people to think that the Campus cops were untrained and had no reason to shoot Jason Washington. Of course, the investigation proved, and citizens of a Grand Jury believed, that there was a major threat to the Officer's lives when they did this. Further evidence found that both Officers were very well trained by the military, DPSST, PSU, and other Police agencies in Oregon. Both officers had dozens of hours of crisis intervention and deescalation training.

I say all this to point out that the while tragic, the shooting of Jason Washington was not suspicious, racially motivated, or unjustified. In fact, it shows that the work Police Officers do anywhere, be it a city, county, or college campus can quickly escalate to life threatening and the Officers should have the means to protect them self.

By disarming the Police, you would essentially make them useless to respond to people that immediately need help. An unarmed Police Officer would not respond to a fight in progress, a break-in in progress, a domestic violence situation, a person feeling suicidal, an overdose, a serious assault, a person drunk driving, and numerous other police calls. It simply would not be the worth the risk.

Please consider the consequences of passing this bill. Universities along with expert opinions and recommendations should make all decisions about how their Police function.

Geeting