

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to oppose HB3338.

The bill is predicated on the false assumption that by virtue of being within a major city our campus must receive sufficient police response and services. At Portland State University (PSU) we know from experience and from their own communication that Portland Police Bureau is under-staffed and cannot prioritize incidents at PSU in a manner that our community deserves. The police officers within PSU Campus Public Safety Office (CPSO) are a timely response resource for our campus community.

HB3338 would prohibit PSU police officers from carrying the full suite of tools with them on an emergency response. This limit would not only reduce the types of incidents to which officers could respond, but would also mean that PSU police officers would no longer work side-by-side with other law enforcement. We would lose the ability to direct and participate in emergency response actions that occur on our campus.

It is important to highlight that all university police officers receive the same training as every other municipal law enforcement agency across the state. What sets campus police officers apart however is the time they spend focused on just our campus. Local police cannot dedicate the time to get to know our facilities, our community members, and our key areas of concern. PSU police officers demonstrate commitment and engagement every day and their familiarity with campus makes for more effective emergency response. If university police officers are trained to the same extent and are expected to have the same authority as municipal law enforcement then they should be equipped appropriately.

Our campus is located in downtown Portland. While we face challenges similar to the rest of the central city, our campus is not just a collection of city blocks and should not be policed as if it is. I believe that PSU is best served by a campus-based police department with sworn, trained, and fully equipped police officers.

Respectfully,
Emma Stocker

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