

RE: HB 3338 - written testimony

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Olson and Williamson, Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing today to express my opposition to HB3338. I have two teenage daughters, and I recently toured the Portland State University campus for serious consideration for my girls to attend. I have heard a number of amazing things about the education programs offered at PSU, and I have no doubt that is the case. However; during my tour of the, although beautiful, blatantly urban campus, it became immediately obvious my daughters' safety would be a serious consideration.

You do not need to go far to see the large number of homelessness that permeates the campus, the close proximity to non-campus property with bars and clubs, and the porous to non-existent line between on and off campus.

These facts alone would not make me remove PSU from consideration; however, they do encourage me to do some more digging. What I found reassured me greatly. PSU, like most public universities, has sworn police officers. I was surprised to learn that addition was recent, because the need is so blaringly obvious.

Now I see news of this bill making it's way through the Oregon State Legislature, and honestly, I am flabbergasted. First, and foremost, because it completely disregards the safety of students, who are your customers at a public university. Additionally because the State of Oregon has some of the most protected gun rights, and this bill aims to take guns out of the hands of police when any citizen on or near campus could have a gun. I feel as though anyone who read this bill out loud would immediately see how ludicrous it is.

I can tell you this, if my daughter were the victim of an attempted car jacking in a campus parking structure and had an assault weapon pointed at her, there would be hell to pay if she had to wait an hour or more for Portland Police Bureau to respond because Campus Police had been disarmed!

Thank you for your consideration,  
J. Payne