

Dear Chair Williamson and Committee Members,

This summer I will become the mother-in-law of the Chief law enforcement officer of Portland State University. I recommend him to you with great pride. Chief Tanksley is a consummate professional with the courage, compassion and willingness to do the job he has been hired to do not only for PSU, but for the community of Portland, Oregon. His background is in community policing. For years he has volunteered and helped organize the Special Olympics program for the communities where he has lived. When he speaks with you at your hearing, please listen to what he has to say. You will hear in his voice the dedication he has for his job and his belief in what he does and how he does it.

Obviously, I have a vested interest in feeling assured that Chief Tanksley has all the tools available to him to protect himself, the students, educators, and staff of PSU, and visitors to the campus.

My question to you is why would you want to eliminate his ability to adequately protect when the general public is still armed? I could enumerate all of the mass shootings since Columbine, but I know you are knowledgeable people and acutely aware of each of them. Would it be a better use of your time to concentrate on stricter gun legislation for the wider citizenship of the State of Oregon before you single out trained campus law enforcement officers?

Shirley Susich