



**To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee**

**From: Sheriff Mike Reese, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office**  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association  
**Chief John Teague, Keizer Police Department**  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

**Date: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**Re: HB 3338 – Testimony in Opposition**

**Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 3338 on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police.

In advance of the 2011 Legislative Session, our associations worked with Oregon's public universities to carefully craft legislation to enable them to create sworn police agencies on their campuses. The result was the passage of SB 405. While local police departments and sheriff's offices work hard to train our officers to respond to incidents that affect university communities, there is no doubt that a police department focused solely on the campus environment has the opportunity to build a greater connection to students, staff and faculty and better understand their needs. Further, we believe that familiarity with the campus grounds and student community along with the ability to improve response times increases the safety of students during their time within the university setting. For these reasons, we endorsed University Police Departments.

As a part of the process of developing SB 405 in 2011, we worked with the public universities to insure that the following requirements were included in the measure:

- Require university police officers to successfully complete the 16 weeks of DPSST basic training and meet all ongoing maintenance training standards like all other police officers.
- Require the university police supervisors to meet the management and executive certification requirements of the state so that police officers are supervised by police supervisors.
- Require that university police officers have all the tools of a police officer including the requirement that they be armed.

We are in opposition to HB 3338 because it would prevent fully trained and certified police officers from carrying firearms outside of a police headquarters. While we hope that our police officers and deputy sheriffs never have to use a firearm in the course of their work and train them to use the least force necessary to resolve incidents, there are situations that demand the use of a firearm and where a quick response time may mean the difference between life and death. Without a firearm, university police officers would be unable to effectively control these situations, requiring other agencies to respond into an unfamiliar jurisdiction, causing unnecessary delay and possible confusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.