

I am writing this email to express my concern regarding the arming of campus security and the potential impact of HB3338. I am faculty at PSU and an alumnae. I live 10 minutes from the campus and outside of my time there at work I spend time at various events on campus and nearby as a citizen, not in a professional capacity. Over the many years I have been attached to PSU in a variety of ways and spent time there did I ever feel unsafe or ill at ease as I do since the Board of Directors and the previous university President decided to arm campus police against the large swell of protest to do so. As a faculty I have heard from many students of color and other marginalized identities that seeing armed security on campus creates more fear and insecurity. For students of color, especially Black students (and faculty) the killing of Jason Washington has only confirmed our deepest fears. An innocent man, who was trying to calm a volatile situation was gunned down. If he, who was trying to help, was not breaking any laws or causing any disturbance can be killed in cold blood with no consequences to those who pulled the trigger how can any person of color feel safe again on our campus? The choice to militarize campus security is not reflective of what a institution of higher education should be. I strongly urge you to pass HB3338 to disarm campus security not simply for the immediate message to students of color that their voice and lives are valued but for the long term impact. Disarming security will force them to work collaboratively with those who have offered to partner and free up resources to enact different forms of training and resources that are relationship based and focused on creating community to create safety. There was a time where the current positions were called 'campus safety officers' or 'campus security' the move to make them 'campus police' is a move towards a more militaristic state that is unnecessary and damaging to our community. If universities are truly interested in creating a safe campus community that focus should be on the community piece, that we develop and define plans of safety that are inclusive of those in the community. There is no record of ANY incident in the history of PSU where it indicated that if campus security had been armed the outcome would've been better. None. The previous university President was clear he was not interested in hearing from anyone who was opposed to arming campus security, even shouting down those who opposed it in a public form. Please do not perpetuate the abuse of power he demonstrated. Do not risk any more lives. Ensure HB3338 to disarm campus security/police passes.

Thank you for your time.
Mollie Janssen