



Oregon Student Association

May 6, 2019

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Lizbeht Marquez
RE: Senate Bill 576, Kaylee's Law

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lizbeht Marquez, I'm a student at Western Oregon University and I am a Policy Associate for the Oregon Student Association. The Oregon Student Association is a statewide organization that represents 130,000 students in Oregon whose mission is to work for an affordable and accessible higher education. I am here to urge your support for SB 576.

I have testified before this committee regarding the safety concerns students have and today, I am here to urge your continued support of ensuring that our campuses are safe. There is a consensus among our students that Kaylee Sawyers death was preventable if there were explicit limitations on what campus public safety officers could and could not do. Even before Kaylee's death students of color have expressed their concern about their safety when public safety officers have the ability to stop and frisk them. The fact that public safety officers can be dressed like police officers is triggering for students of color who may have a history of police brutality. Women have also expressed their concerns stating that they do not feel safe on campus even more so after Kaylee's death. Given the history of the lack of restrictions placed on public safety officers, it makes students question who they can trust if the very people who are responsible for ensuring their safety are the ones violating that trust.

SB 576 is essential to ensuring the safety of students because campus safety officers would undergo a required criminal record background check, requires their uniforms to be different from that of a police officer and also states that they do not have stop and frisk authority. SB 576 would also require campus safety vehicles to have a GPS device and camera while also ensuring that the vehicle differentiates from that of a police car and prohibits the use of cages.

That trust was broken, it is time that the legislature help restore that trust and ensure that students feel safe once again.

This is why I support SB 576 and encourage this committee to pass it.

Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Lizbeht Marquez

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents