

Submitter: Robin Lee
On Behalf Of: personal thoughts
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB779

There are many occupations where college degrees would logically be necessary: lawyers, doctors, nuclear scientists, to name a few. However, there are a substantial number of occupations where learning is efficiently "hands-on": plumbing, electrical, and auto mechanic come to mind. In my own 'career' I was hired to be trained as an insurance adjuster by a major carrier. My degree wasn't helpful at all. I became a very skilled adjuster because I paid attention to how damaged things needed to be repaired. along the way, I observed the company overlook a very skilled "leader" for several years because she lacked a college degree. when they finally gave her an opportunity to supervise a claims unit, she improved productivity and customer satisfaction significantly because she was so skilled at instructing and motivating her staff.

For police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, regulatory specialists and reserve officers, I don't see it. Street sense must be learned on the street! Newbies should be paired with experienced officers and mentored. I'm certain most departments have their own tutorials, and that there are multitudes of seminars, etc. for officers to learn the necessary aspects of their trade. I imagine that if this proposal passes it will create hardships for many officers, their respective departments, and their families. Staffing might have to be reduced, and I wonder if the "defund-the-police" movement ideologues might not be behind this. I certainly think MY SAFETY might be compromised by reduction(s) in force if Medford/Jackson County have to release staff. I don't see any reason to make a degree a requirement for hiring or for retention.

Furthermore, my sense is that this will DISCRIMINATE against otherwise eligible applicants. Many intelligent people come from families who lack the means to send them to college. There is certainly no consideration about "equity" in the bill.

In closing, I submit that if this bill does pass, that it should not impact any current staff and should take effect down the road. A long time "down the road." Please do not pass SB 779. Thank you.