

13 February 2024

TO: Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair & Vice Chair Thatcher, & Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

FROM: Laurie Kimmell, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)

SUBJECT: Against SB 779

ATTENTION: FOR ALL REVIEWING AUTHORITIES

1. Please accept this as my testimony against SB 779. SB 779 discriminates against veterans and negatively affects rural Oregon. Many veterans have served globally and at home in a law enforcement capacity (drug interdictions, war zones, base housing). SB 779 discounts any military law enforcement experience
2. SB 779 is an arbitrary bill which has a substantial negative impact on rural Oregon. Small departments in rural Oregon already face a manpower shortage. Presently, small departments have a difficult time competing with the larger departments with the rate of pay. Since the villainizing of law enforcement professionals by the press, media, and city councils there have been massive exiting law enforcement agencies as a result; rural districts go without coverage. Requiring a baccalaureate degree will not make a better police officer, Corrections Deputy, or Reserve police officer but will just enhance a shortage of law enforcement professionals.

Thank you,  
//SIGNED//  
LAURIE KIMMELL, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)