

Submitter: Chad Kernutt
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB779

<https://www.kptv.com/2023/02/15/oregon-joins-debate-over-police-education-requirements/>

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt, I am a married father of 3, a U.S. Army Veteran, and a member of the Corrections community here in Oregon. I ask that you please vote NO on SB-779. I have a 2 year college degree and have 6 years served in the U.S. Army which means that I would not have been impacted in getting hired on by a bad bill such as this, but I know plenty of fine officers both male and female that come from a very diverse array of backgrounds and are made up of all stripes that would have been personally affected with getting hired on to our corrections agencies had this bill existed in the past. ALL Law Enforcement/Corrections officers already hired on by agencies would be personally affected by this bill if it were to be passed because we would get impacted by the emergency staffing levels, mandatory overtimes, and lack of back up/numbers of officers on our forces that this bad bill would produce. Law Enforcement/Corrections agencies across the state are already having a very difficult time and the difficult task of getting enough people (especially of diverse backgrounds) to apply for the law enforcement and corrections fields without adding more major hurdles to hiring people for these fields. Across the state of Oregon in police/sheriffs agencies and correctional facilities we are having issues with staffing with it being particularly difficult to hire candidates and retain fully staffed departments for the large law enforcement agencies in the cities and for our correctional facilities. For the city police departments and largely populated county sheriff's departments this has meant not having enough officers and deputies to respond to all the calls that they are receiving for crimes in progress and to help people under duress forcing them to have to pick and choose which 911 calls to prioritize and respond to leaving other 911 calls with severely delayed response times or no responses at all which has jeopardized the safety of our communities. Further, in our correctional institutions they have also been dealing with emergency staffing levels and dangerous amounts of mandatory overtime with their officers forcing these agencies to dish out large quantities of overtime both mandatory and voluntary just to be able to run the facilities which has cost the tax payers tremendously and led to high levels of officer burn out and turnover just like we have been seeing with our law enforcement out on the streets. We don't need these added hurdles, dangers, and stressors added into our already very stressful and dangerous law enforcement and correctional fields. Please I beg of you for the safety of our officers and communities please vote NO on SB-779.