

March 18th, 2019

April Merrill

Subject: HB 3338

Dear Mr. Chair Williamson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you today to submit my support to not disarm our University of Oregon Police Department. My daughter is currently a student at the University of Oregon and as a parent, I fully support our UO Campus police officers and the University of Oregon Police Department. My daughter has expressed a great deal of concern for her safety on campus if University of Oregon police officers were to be disarmed. As a concerned parent, I implore you to please reconsider not disarming our campus police officers for the sake of our children's safety and the safety surrounding our campus community. I know firsthand how much the student body, faculty/staff appreciate having a diligent and caring police department on campus. The campus police officers and UOPD staff have really gone to great measures to keep our campus safe by constantly conducting trainings, campus community involvement and patrolling in order to keep the students, staff, faculty and visitors safe from any harm. University of Oregon Police Department have a very good rapport with our campus and as a parent and UO staff member, I applaud their efforts.

Unfortunately, there is always the chance that someone with ill-intentions might possibly harm those who call the University of Oregon home and if our UO police officers are disarmed a bad situation could turned even deadlier. In fact, what happened at UCC is a scary and real concern of parents when we send our child(ren) off to college. I know I rather have police officers on campus who are highly-trained and effective in dealing with potential situations, then to rely on police officers who may need time to respond. Our University of Oregon police officers and UOPD have a good relationship with those on-campus and really know how our campus operates, this is essential in maintaining an armed police force on the University of Oregon campus. Please...please don't disarm our University of Oregon Police Department. I, as a parent and UO employee, want to feel like our campus is safe from people who might consider doing harm on-campus and knowing our fully-armed UOPD officers can respond quickly to diffuse a lethal threat is reassuring and peace of mind.

Respectfully,
April Merrill
UO Parent / UO employee