

# Oregon Student Association

March 21, 2019

Good Afternoon Chair Williamson and members of the committee,

My name is Andrew Rogers and I am the communications Director for the Oregon Student Association. I'm here to ask you to vote yes on HB 3338.

I want to share with you a bit about my history with working on the issue of campus safety here in Oregon. I grew up in Southern Oregon and attended University of Oregon. My first year, University of Oregon announced they were attempting to pass legislation which would allow them to have their own armed police force. Students organized against it. When SB 405, which allowed the then State Board of Higher Education authority to grant individual university institutional boards the authority to create their own armed police forces was introduced in 2011, myself and other students, through OSA, advocated against the idea. Students said back then that armed campus police was not what made them feel safer. And they pointed out that students of color and LGBTQ students particularly have reasons related to both history and to their own past experiences to be fearful around armed law enforcement. The legislature passed SB 405. Next, UO sought and obtained approval to get their own armed police force. Once again, there were students on my campus who argued against it. The approval was granted. When I see cases like the death of Jason Washington, or the events that led to Sterling Baraquio, a student of color at the UO, having the completely traumatic, unnecessary, and preventable experience of having guns drawn on him by multiple officers at his own student union, where he was djing at the college radio station, it makes me think of how long students have been asking not to have armed campus police officers on their campus.

Now, as a staff member for OSA, having seen this conversation play out over the course of 8 years at this point, I have to wonder how long students will have to keep speaking up and saying they don't want armed campus police. I am inspired by the work of our students at PSU and UO who have brought this bill forward and have also done organizing on their own campus. I am glad that some of them are here to testify today, and know others have submitted written testimony. They have a lot of important things to say about what models of policing they want on campus, and what actually makes a safe environment on campus for them to learn.

I thank you all for considering this bill, I urge you to listen to and contemplate the words of the students we will hear from in this discussion, and I urge you to vote yes on HB 3338. Thank you.

## OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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