

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Please place this email place on the record for HB 3338; I am opposition to the HB 3338 bill.

My name is Shaun Kohn, I am the Manager of the Smith Memorial Student Union on the campus of Portland State University. The building I manage has averaged over two million visitors per year for the last two years, making it one of the more trafficked buildings on any college campus in the state of Oregon.

Having an armed police presence on our campus is vital to the safety and security of the students, staff, and visitors on the Portland State University campus, and specifically to the over two million visitors each year to Smith Memorial Student Union.

I work nearly daily with our Campus Public Safety Officers (CPSO), specifically in regards to non-students violating the Smith Memorial Student Union Rules of Conduct, and asking non-students violating the Rules of Conduct to leave the building. The majority of these conversations are calm, and the non-students comply by leaving the building.

However, a smaller percentage of these non-students are agitated, and at times I have feared for my safety when asking them to follow the Rules of Conduct – it is at these moments when I am grateful that there is an armed police officer a phone call away, and that their office is across the street from Smith Memorial Student Union.

Having said that, in the nine months I have worked at PSU, I have never seen a CPSO draw a weapon; their calm presence, the way they consistently work with the non-student population and especially the agitated non-students, is greatly appreciated.

Moreover, the PSU CPSO officers are well aware of the intricacies of Smith Memorial Student Union building, the odd designs, the places that people attempt to hide – and this awareness is vital at times to finding non-students in the building.

Having said all of that, the fact that the CPSO officers are armed is vital to the safety and the security of the students, staff, and visitors to Smith Memorial Student Union. If there is a need for an armed officer, PSU officers are within steps of Smith Memorial Student Union; a phone call to an armed Portland Police officer, and the response time to get to campus, along with the lack of the intricate knowledge of this specific building, or campus in general, would extend response time – a Portland Police officer would need a CPSO officer to guide them to many of the intricate, odd spots in this building.

I feel safer with armed CPSO officers on this campus, and the safety of PSU students is enhanced with armed CPSO officers on this campus.

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