

Oregon Student Association



May 6, 2019

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Samantha Mosley
RE: Senate Bill 576, Kaylee's Law

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and Members of the Committee,

Hi My name is Samantha Mosley, and I'm addressing this committee today in regards to the issues of public safety on my campus. Being a student at Lane community college, I am triggered around the issues of police brutality on communities of color by the police. The reason this happens is because my public safety officials carries themselves in the same authoritative way. As a black woman of color I thought the one place I would feel safest was getting my education. Unfortunately after finding out more about the incident at Central Oregon Community College in 2016, I realize how urgent this bill is to pass.

I think this bill introduces key ways to clarify for me and other community college students the differences in responsibilities and accountability that public safety has. For example, having thorough background checks can ensure that those meant to provide a secure environment will be held to the same standards of the law. In addition, the overall perception I got from them on campus is that there were little differences between public safety and officers. From their uniforms, the fact that they are armed, and have detained people on campus shows me that there needs to be more regulations in place. The fact that I had these misconceptions led me to a lot of panic and anxiety every time I would go to school. With the overall nature of police violence on my community, it was a real threat I was reminded of every time public safety officials would walk by me. I've had negative perceptions of me by public safety just for the color of my skin. I've been stopped and harassed by police-even pulled over without cause because I am a black woman. This is not something I should have to worry about while I'm trying to get my education. One time, I was waiting for my boyfriend to pick me up from campus and he was running late. Around the same time, a public safety officer pulled his work car into campus. Still waiting for my boyfriend, the guy was getting out and saw me again. He then proceeded to get into a public safety SUV again and parked it in front of me and watched me until my boyfriend picked me up. This made me feel like he thought I was a threat instead of a student trying to get my degree. This fear I deal with on campus should not be the norm for students like me. So please consider passing SB 576 through this committee.

Thank you

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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