

Madame Secretary: Vote explanation please. Senator Boquist

“SB 116 per verbal statements is supposed to ensure security companies do not have employees who look and act like police. Per DPSST, it is the next step after Kaylee’s Law which is the result of a public safety officer murdering a student at Central Oregon Community College and OSU Cascades. This Senator received the original bill concept documents, spoke to board and committee members, and receive abbreviated copies of the lawyer’s reports regarding the March 2020 month long suspension of COCC’s public safety department regulated by DPSST. The Chief was terminated per the news media. The issue again was public safety looking like and acting like police which needs fixed. However, the text of the bill instead prohibits the use of equipment, vehicles, uniforms and titles used by private fire fighting, police (security), ambulances and emergency medical services as defined in ORS 181A.355. There is no may clause, no shall clause, no go make rules clause, simply makes it illegal to have or use in the scope of employment by any entity. DPSST wanted to rightfully better regulate police look a likes but instead the Senate Democrats intentionally expanded the bill to targeting every business that has security, does fire fighting, or provides ambulances, or emergency medical services. Amazon, Facebook, and Apple data centers, Fred Meyer and other retailers, Nike, Intel, manufactures and mills, defense contractors, UAV contractors, banks, credit unions, apartment buildings, doctors and every business with security or security guards, fire fighting equipment, and emergency medical are in the bill now. Ambulance companies could not own ambulances that look public vehicles. Wildland fire fighters could not own or use fire trucks or fire equipment. Neither can have radios or equipment compatible with public entities in an emergency. Fires happen every day. Ambulance roll every hour. The bill decimates interoperability in a disaster or emergency as set up in the FEMA incident command structure used by Oregon. The Senate Democrats were provided an opportunity on the Floor of the Senate to send the bill to Senate Rules Committee, controlled by Democrats, to makes changes to focus purely on security verses police confusion, remove or clarify businesses and entities who are not security contractors, remove private wildfire crews, remove ambulance providers, remove emergency medical services, and ensure incident command interoperability but refused on pure Democrat party lines. This refusal beyond a doubt means the intent and language of the bill is to eliminate private fight fighting crews, private ambulances, private emergency medical services, and private security except as one committee members said “security dressed in a t-shirt and jeans.” Of course, government ambulances, fire fighting, emergency medical services, and POLICE would replace private entities. What happen to the Democrat mantra “defund the police?” Then another Senator who does have free debate speech on the Floor tried to claim the bill was exactly as requested by DPSST board and committee members which is simply mistaken per the public record. The bill needs to be amended in the Oregon House of Representatives to focus purely on regulating security companies.”