

Submitter: Michael Krantz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB779

I am speaking on behalf of only my position as the Chief of Police for the Bend Police Department and my personal knowledge of our recruitment, hiring and retention processes. Senate Bill 779 proposing changing requirements for police officers to hold 4 year bachelor degrees is unnecessary and unproductive. There is no correlation between degree requirements and the likelihood that someone will be a better trained police officer. This would cause substantial recruitment and retention issues within the already struggling profession of law enforcement. In Oregon we value specific police officer certification training, and as such the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training offers varying certificate levels, from basic, intermediate and advanced for police officers and through executive for the position of chief. These certifications recognize and value post-secondary degrees, however, they also offer a path for advanced police officer certifications without post-secondary education. The path is inclusive of additional job specific training requirements and more on-the-job longevity, both of which are proven to be more critical in training and experience than a four year bachelors degree for policing. I would strongly urge not supporting any movement forward with this proposed Senate Bill 779.