

I am writing in opposition to SB 779.

The passage of this bill will only exacerbate a situation in which our state is already struggling to find people who are willing to work as police officers. There is no justification for requiring all police officers, parole/probation officers, reservists, and other law enforcement officials to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Furthermore, terminating those unable to obtain a bachelor's degree within four years is absurd. I attended college in my mid-30s, and it took me 5.5 years to get my bachelor's degree. Even though I was taking a full-time credit course load...I was also working a full-time job and raising two kids. It would have been impossible for me to complete that task earlier without sacrificing more of my time with my family. You don't seem to be considering the burden that will be placed on police officers, corrections officers, etc.

Below are some articles you may find of interest.

[Madras Police Department at 50% staffing levels.](#)

[Bend Police ongoing staffing shortage.](#)

[Redmond Police short on experienced officers that can patrol on their own.](#)

[Oregon's only police academy has a sixth month waitlist](#)