

Rachel Hawk
District 4 Deschutes County

Testimony RE: SB 779

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, Members the Committee,

I oppose SB 779.

I come from a family and community of Police Officers. After interviewing 2 retired police officers of 25+ years I would like to share with you some facts:

Upon employment, Public Safety Professionals are required to obtain Basic Certification in their discipline. Oregon provides substantial and adequate training needed in this area.

- DPSST – Department of Public Safety Standards and Training sets minimum requirements and training standards, and operates the Oregon Public Safety Academy.
- Community Academy and CPE (Center for Policing Excellence) provide continuing education for Public Safety Professionals.
- FTEP (Field Training Evaluation Program) provides on-the-job training for patrol functions and is utilized by our Police Departments.

These combined programs advance our Public Safety Professionals in the following topics.

Police Services, Programs, Procedures, and Policies
Application of the Law
Crime Scene Investigation
Emergency Vehicle Operations
Firearms Training
Patrol and Traffic Control
Procedural Justice
Scenario Based Training
Narcotics
SWAT
Officer Survival
Crime and Disorder
Community Livability
Public Trust

- If you are in need of help and call 911, would you want them to send a Police officer with proper police training, or a person with a Bachelor's Degree in Art history, Business Administration, or Anthropology?
- Obtaining a Bachelor's Degree should not be government requirements for our well trained Police Officers, but a personal decision. If a Public Safety Professional wants to advance in areas of criminal justice, sociology, criminology, psychology or communications that would be their choice.
- Many Police officers, including the 2 interviewed for this testimony, teach courses after they retire,

sharing their learned knowledge and experience with the new recruits.

- This Bill, although allowing 4 years for employees to meet the minimum education requirements set forth in this measure, will terminate well-trained and experienced officers, putting our communities at risk.

Again I would like to submit that I and many in my community oppose this action. Please do not pass this bill through committee.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Hawk
Precinct 4 Deschutes County