

From: Tron Clark, SR
To: Senator John Coghill
Subject: SB 176 Regulation of Firearms and Knives by the University of Alaska
Date: February 27, 2014

The Honorable John Coghill
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Support for Senate Bill 176

Dear Senator Coghill:

The Justice Center and Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center of the University of Alaska (UA) published an article in the Alaska Justice Forum, Volume 20, No. 4, in the Winter of 2004, titled Forcible Rapes and Sexual Assaults in Anchorage. The article stated that "In 2002, the state of Alaska had the highest rate of reported forcible rape among the 50 states (79.4 per 100,000) and Anchorage had the second highest rate of reported forcible rape among metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. (95.0 per 100,000). In 2002, the rates of reported forcible rape were 141 percent higher in Alaska and 188 percent higher in Anchorage than in the U.S." "In 2002, there were 254 forcible rapes and 85 sexual assaults reported to the Anchorage Police Department, for a total of 339 forcible rapes and sexual assaults. Furthermore, according to analysis done by Callie Marie Rennison for the Bureau of Justice Statistics, national statistics indicate that only 36 percent of forcible rapes, 34 percent of attempted forcible rapes, and 26 percent of sexual assaults are reported to the police. In light of this, the forcible rape and sexual assault problem in Anchorage is probably worse than that indicated by police statistics."

Since publication of the article the forcible rape and sexual assault cases have increased in the State of Alaska. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Report (UCR) 2013 statistics, Anchorage, Alaska has the highest rate of rape per capita in America.

Yet, since 1995 law-abiding Alaskans have been denied their individual, constitutional right to keep and bear arms on all University of Alaska campuses. The University of Alaska board of regents has enforced administrative policy prohibiting the concealed carry of firearms with no absolutely no regard to the safety of female students, teachers, employees and visitors. During a forcible rape or attack on a UA campus will board members come to the victims rescue?

With recent physical assaults at UAA upon female students, the Legislature should support SB 176 as way to ensure such violent crime is deterred.

The Alaska Constitution guarantees (art. 1, sec. 19) that the individual right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed by the state or a political subdivision of the state. Being constitutionally created, appointed by the governor, subject to a vote by the legislature, and bound to follow state law, it is apparent that the University of Alaska board of regents are

political subdivisions of the State of Alaska and thumbing their noses at the Alaska Constitutional law allowing law-abiding citizens to legally defend themselves and others.

Public universities in Utah, Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO), and Blue Ridge Community College (Weyers Cave, VA) allow for the concealed carry of firearms on their campuses. After more than 100 combined semesters, these schools have experienced no incidents of gun violence, gun threats, or any on-campus altercations with firearms.

Furthermore, the forty 'right-to-carry' states have not seen increases in gun violence since legalizing concealed carry, even though law-abiding citizens in these states carry concealed in locations like shopping malls, movie theaters, grocery stores, restaurants, and office buildings.

Senate Bill 176 would resolve this conflict, by requiring the University of Alaska board of regents to comply with the Constitution of the State of Alaska and current state law.

SB 176 would enable law-abiding citizens to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights by carrying concealed firearms on and in the property of all University of Alaska campuses.

The right to defend oneself and others is a fundamental right that must be upheld, and secured for law-abiding citizens pursuing a higher education in Alaska.

For these reasons I support SB 176. Thank you for defending the liberties of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

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