

February 19, 2014

Dear Senator Coghill,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 176, an act relating to the regulation of knives and firearms by the University of Alaska.

As a tenured professor of Aviation Technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage, I support such an increase in freedom for law-abiding adult Alaskans. When in a store or movie theatre I do not feel threatened by the fact that some individuals there may be in possession of concealed weapons. In fact I feel safer, since any criminals thus must worry about the threat of armed resistance to their crimes.

There is a reason that murderous criminals typically choose schools and churches for their rampages; those in such locations usually are disarmed and thus are unable to offer armed resistance to attack. As far as the criminals themselves, any law or regulation prohibiting concealed carry hardly is likely to deter them. Criminals generally did not become criminals by obeying well-intended laws or regulations.

As a university professor, would it worry me to have students in my classroom bearing concealed weapons? I only would worry that, should an armed criminal appear who was seeking to shoot others, any persons in my class bearing such weapons might hesitate to fire quickly or accurately enough. Research indicates that shooting murderous criminals is the sincerest form of social criticism, and two well-placed shots would fall into the category of group therapy. While many university professors might demand that further study be made into the root causes of such murderous behavior, it occurs to me that the criminals themselves would be ideally placed to study roots while six feet under. Society today has no shortage either of wolves or of sheep, sir. I would find the presence of a few more sheep dogs in the mix to be both bracing and reassuring.

Gun control usually is about control of the citizens, rather than about guns. I thank you for advancing this legislative proposal that would advance the right of law-abiding adult Alaskans to defend themselves and others. You may use my letter of support in whatever manner you wish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Buckland". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "M" and a cursive "Buckland".

Michael Buckland