



Matthew Kirby
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February 18, 2014

Senator John Coghill
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Coghill,

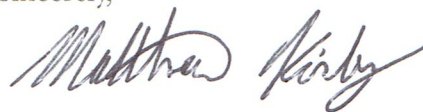
I am writing to express my gratitude (and to extend my support) for the recently drafted SB 176, the passage of which would compel the University of Alaska to comply with Alaska state law regarding the constitutionally-protected right of citizens to keep and bear arms. It is my earnest desire, as well as that of the tens of thousands of members that comprise Students for Concealed Carry, to see the nation-wide adoption of legal provisions that protect the ability of ordinary citizens to defend themselves in any circumstances in which their lives may be threatened.

It is an unfortunate fact that university campuses have historically been—and are in principle—vulnerable to attack by malicious individuals, the collective havoc wrought by such heinous crimes being utterly inestimable. While no law can make certain the safety of citizens in every circumstance, the purpose of the law is not realize the ideal, but, rather, to enact provisions codifying the just and prudent exercise of those rights endowed, first by our Creator, and second by our Constitution; and it is my firm opinion that SB 176 is indeed both a prudent and a morally necessary addition to Alaskan law.

With regard to the former—that is, the bill's practicality—SB 176 is consistent with the wide body of positive evidence that average citizens can be trusted to use their firearms responsibly in self-defense scenarios. It is, in addition, consistent with the negative evidence; that is, the fact that of the 206 college campuses that allow students and faculty to carry concealed weapons, there has not been any discernible increase in incidents of violence as a result of such provisions. There are no empirical data that support the prohibition of the concealed carrying of firearms on university campuses. Such prohibitions as currently being exercised by the University of Alaska Board of Regents, being devoid of an adequate foundation in the available data, are especially egregious in light of Alaskans' legal right to carry concealed firearms statewide with impunity.

On behalf of my fellow Americans in the state of Alaska, I emphatically encourage the passage of SB 176. While its passage may be considered by some to be a small victory, if the bill has the privilege of effecting the preservation of even a single innocent life, it will have proven itself invaluable. I thank you for your efforts and for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Matthew Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and the last name "Kirby" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew Kirby

West Coast Regional Director,
Students for Concealed Carry