



February 19, 2014

Dear Senator Coghill:

As young people who are politically involved and concerned about the future of our nation and our state, we'd like to thank you for your service in the Alaska State Legislature. We recognize that weighty and serious issues that have an impact on all Alaskans are considered daily both in and out of session, and we greatly appreciate your service to our state.

We, the Alaska College Republicans, are writing to urge your support of SB 176. The Alaska State Constitution clearly delineates that the right to keep and bear arms cannot be infringed upon by the state or its political subdivisions (Article 1, Sec. 19). As the University of Alaska is a constitutionally-created system, and its Board of Regents are subject to gubernatorial appointment and legislative approval, it is clear that both the University system and its Board of Regents are political subdivisions of the state, and are thereby bound by that constitutional mandate, and should abide as such.

Unfortunately, since 1995, BoR Administrative policy has prevented UA students from exercising their constitutionally-protected right to bear arms on their campuses. SB 176 resolves this conflict, and ensures that Board of Regents policy remains consistent with existing state law, while making provisions to ensure that the health and safety of students, staff, and faculty are protected. The State Constitution is a uniquely important document that expounds the virtues on which the state – and the nation – were founded on. We think that having a political subdivision of the state that enacts policies that fail to pass constitutional muster is not only problematic legally speaking, but is also a poor representation of the State's commitment to its constitutional principles.

SB 176 brings the Board back within the bounds of its constitutional mandate, and for that reason, we urge your support. Thank you for defending the liberties of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Taylor
Chair | Alaska College Republicans