

From: Gary Porter [mailto:gary@tech.engr.uaf.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:02 AM

To: Sen. John Coghill

Subject: Senate bill 176

Senator Coghill,

I would like to thank you for your bill 176 which I believe supports those of us who are truly concerned about the rights and safety of University of Alaska students and employees. I've written the following to the other Senators.

I'm writing to you to please consider a vote for Senate Bill 176.

This bill would alleviate a long standing meaningless Regent Policy of no firearms allowed, in some buildings on the UAF campus.

I've worked here at UAF for over 24 years and can assure you that firearms are being carried on campus by many students, staff, and faculty. These firearms are not being carried for the purpose of ill intent but rather for the purpose of ones right to self defense and to have the ability to aid others in the very rare case that such is needed. The odds are certainly in our favor that nothing bad will happen here but like the fire extinguisher which has sat in my home for probably 30 years and I don't expect to ever use it, I don't think I would want to remove it.

You cannot legislate the criminal mind nor insanity. You can however cause law abiding well intended people to be at higher risk.

In every case of a University shooting that I can find it was at a University with rules of no guns allowed.

You can never stop such a thing from happening as the bad guys, if you will, always have the first go. The police can never get on scene fast enough and they will be the first to say that it will be all over by the time they get there. However, by allowing individuals the right to defend themselves and or others allows for some if not many lives to be saved. As it is now we have a campus policy and a standard procedure for an active shooter which in reality cannot be done. Our classrooms have doors that open to the outside thus blocking them is not possible, if you turn the lights out the emergency lights come on, most classrooms have one entrance, the doors are not lockable from the inside. The only thing in the campus policy that can be done is to throw stuff at the shooter.. Lets get serious about campus safety and take a look at the reality of our situation.

I could go on for a long time with many facts that are readably available but I will just stop and again as an employee, and a law abiding citizen of the community and the University to please vote for Senate bill 176.

I would by the way advocate that a policy be established asking those who wish to carry firearms on campus to take a concealed carry class which covers the laws concerning such as well as consideration of how to properly do so. In the interest of true safety this could even be offered on campus as a weekend opportunity.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

A truly concerned employee of the University of Alaska Gary Porter