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Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:09 AM

To: Jordan Shilling; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bill Wielechowski

Subject: SB 176 Testimony

My name is Mike Coons from Palmer and I am speaking for myself.

I fully support SB 176!

President Pat Gamble's testimony was designed to create emotion, hide fact, either outright lied or was totally misinformed about existing law, and making other comments that have no basis in fact.

Mr Gamble stated that a person can possess a handgun at age 18. Federal law, no person under 21 may purchase a handgun, no person under 18 may purchase a rifle or shotgun.

Mr Gamble is concerned about protecting visiting children on campus.

Courts have ruled that police do not have a duty to protect individuals, thus UA has no duty to protect anyone. His example of K-12 schools protecting the kids was devoid of logic. If Gun Free Zones do such a great job, then why are 24 to 35 people killed or injured vs 2 in freedom zones?

Mr Gamble said it was OK to have a firearm so long as it is in the vehicle, not on the person. Like at Virginia Tech, which is faster, a .45 at 900 fps or a campus cop in another building or other classroom? Many lives would have been saved with an armed student or faculty!

As to campus police or employees seeing someone carrying a firearm, then asking to leave or face arrest if they do not. Anyone with bad intent can conceal and enter anywhere and do grave harm to others, the individual who lawfully carries concealed would be able to stop that bad actor!

Mr Gamble stated that neither he, nor his legal counsel could find where self defense meant defense of self or others. AS 11.81.340 spells that out quite clearly, as well as other statutes.

The last comment about people coming on campus carrying Bushmasters and shotguns slung over their shoulder was pure red herring and outrageous on it's face. Anyone seeing that would be concerned and our situational awareness would be on high alert. If I am there to take classes, it is bad enough to carry books without carrying a long gun! It is so much easier to carry concealed and that weapon is more than adequate to defend myself or others.