

From: Chet Hand [mailto:chet.hand.ak@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 12:08 PM

To: Sen. John Coghill

Subject: Bill 176

Sen. Coghill,

I am a resident of the North Pole area in the Interior, and I am writing in urgent support of your Senate Bill 176 regarding the University system and students carrying concealed firearms. First I would like to emphasize for everyone that it is already legal for any student over the age of 21 to carry concealed handguns on the university campuses. The University has rules that say students can't have weapons in their possession but there is no Law that a student can be prosecuted under for carrying on campus or in their buildings. It is a constitutionally protected Right in the State of Alaska and in the United States for law abiding citizens, including students, to carry a firearm for any lawful purpose, in this case most likely self defense. As it stands now, at most a student with a firearm on campus can be asked to leave and if they don't comply they can be charged with trespassing, and a subsequent weapons misconduct charge for committing a crime with a weapon in their possession. Since the University is a State entity, it seems both unlawful and unconstitutional for the University to attempt to criminalize, penalize, or in other words alienate and discriminate against any student who simply wishes to exercise their rights on campus.

I have been a student at UAA and UAF for many years, and have always carried a firearm for self defense on campus. There are many hundreds if not thousands of other students who do this as well every year already without hindrance and in doing so help keep themselves and the people around them safe. Notice we have hundreds of reports every year of assaults and crimes committed across the state, on or near the University campuses, but I have yet to hear of a single law-abiding, responsible citizen misusing a firearm on a campus.

It is in the best interest for both individuals and society in general, for your bill to pass in order to reduce the ability for the State of Alaska through it's University System to "Infringe" on Alaskan citizens' right to carry a firearm on campus.

You have my full support, as well as the support of thousands of others across the state. I will continue to actively encourage others to support your bill and will hold accountable at election time any official who abuses the rights of the People.

Thank you for your time, and you can use my testimony in support of your bill.

Chet Hand

North Pole, Alaska

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"We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive." ~ C. S. Lewis