

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate Majority Leader

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Co-Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee  
Legislative Council  
Rules Committee



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## Sponsor Statement

### **SB 176 “An act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska”**

Senate Bill 176 requires the board of regents to comply with Alaska’s constitution and statute. Senate Bill 176 allows law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms while pursuing a higher education in Alaska. Senate Bill 176 resolves the conflict posed by current board of regent policy.

Art. 1, Sec. 19 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska guarantees the individual right to keep and bear arms. This right shall not be infringed by the State or a political subdivision of the State. Subsequently, AS 29.35.145 reserves the power to regulate firearms and knives to the state. Current state law does not prohibit law-abiding citizens from exercising their individual, constitutional right to keep and bear arms at University of Alaska campuses.

The Constitution of the State of Alaska established the University of Alaska as the state university. Art. 7, Sec. 3 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska created the board of regents. The regents are appointed by the governor and subject to a confirmation vote of the legislature in joint session. Therefore, the University of Alaska and the board of regents are political subdivisions of the State of Alaska. Furthermore, the board of regents is bound to formulate policy in accordance with state law.

However, since 1995, the board of regents has (via administrative policy) prohibited the carrying of concealed handguns. The prohibited areas include: university property; university offices or classrooms inside buildings not on university property; and university sponsored activities or meetings not on university property.

History has proven that mentally deranged criminals target vulnerable populations (as was the case at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and Newtown). This should not be the situation at our public universities in Alaska. Law-abiding citizens do not lose the fundamental right to protect themselves, and others, simply because they enter the grounds of UA campuses.

I encourage you to support Senate Bill 176.

For more information contact Hans Rodvik in Senator Coghill’s office at (907) 465-3719