



USUAS-JC

University of Alaska Southeast

United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast

Priority Reading
Resolution - 1516 -10

Sponsored By: President Callie Conerton

Date of Introduction: February 16th, 2016

Purpose: To oppose SB 174 Guns on Campus

Whereas:

The University of Alaska Southeast Juneau Campus students deserve to have a safe place to study that doesn't involve them being scared of people carrying guns

Whereas:

The University is a place of learning. It is not a gun range, hunting ground or a place with significant crime.

Whereas:

Many University of Alaska Southeast students are under 18 and there are many tours of University campuses statewide that include children from kindergarten to high school. It is not a safe choice to have guns being carried around without proper training with young children around. Guns are not allowed on school campuses for kindergarten through high school due to safety. The same safety should be considered for the dual enrolled students, the tour groups and the children of the students and staff who visit campus.

Whereas:

It would not be in the University's best interest to allow vulnerable students; many for the first time away from home, the ability to carry a gun. Many students are experimenting, some against the law, with alcohol. Students are dealing with stressful classes and situations that could get extremely out of hand with students being able to carry guns on campus.

Whereas:

There are no classes or permit required for an Alaskan citizen to purchase and carry a gun in the state of Alaska. This means that a student could purchase a gun and carry it on campus without the proper knowledge of how to use a firearm.

Whereas:

This bill would allow any student, no matter their state of mind or knowledge of firearm safety, to be able to carry a concealed weapon on any University of Alaska Campus.

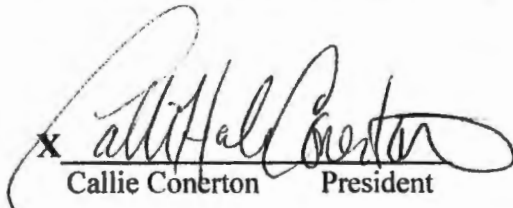
Be It Resolved That:

The USUAS-JC highly discourages Senate Bill 174 and opposes students being able to f carry concealed weapons on University of Alaska property.

Be it Further Resolved That:

A copy of this resolution be sent to: President Johnsen, UA Board of Regents, Senate Education Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Dunleavy, Senator McGuire, Senator Coghill, Senator Kelly, Senator Stoltze, Juneau Legislative Delegation, Vice President Dan White, Vice President Michelle Rizk, Associate Vice President Chris Christensen Chancellor Richard Caulfield, Vice Chancellor Joe Nelson, Vice Chancellor Michael Ciri, Interim Provost Priscilla Schulte, Campus Life Director Eric Scott, Dean of Arts and Sciences Karen Schmitt, Dean of Education Deborah Lo, Dean of Career Education Pete Traxler, Dean of School of Management Vickie Williams, UAS Staff Council, and UAS Faculty Senate.

This Bill Will Be Passed: February 16th, 2016.

x 
Callie Conerton President



University of Alaska Southeast
Staff Council
Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka Campus

UAS STAFF COUNCIL RESOLUTION AY1516-01
Approved February 16, 2016

TO: Jim Johnsen
President, University of Alaska

VIA: Faye Gallant
Chair, Staff Alliance

CC: Richard Caulfield
Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast

Maren Haavig
President, Faculty Senate/Alliance

DATE: February 16, 2016

RE: Oppose Senate Bill 174 Guns on Campus

Whereas:

On February 16, 2016, the UAS Staff Council unanimously opposed SB174 Guns on Campus and supports Student Services Council of the University of Alaska and UAS Student Government Juneau campus resolution 1516-10: Oppose SB 174 Guns on Campus.

In the current climate of violence associated with guns, SB 174 will only amplify this behavior within our campus and community.

UAS Staff Council advises Staff Alliance and the UA Administration to support the best interests and importantly, safety, of the University employees and students.

Be It Resolved That:

UAS Staff Council opposes Senate Bill 174 Guns on Campus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kolene James', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kolene James
President, UAS Staff Council

Enclosures: UASJC-Resolution 1516-10
VC Letter Opposing Gun Legislation

The mission of the University of Alaska Southeast is student learning enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska.

Gayle Keller

From: uaafac@alaska.net
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello;
senator.Petter.Micciche@akleg.gov; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Cc: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: SB174-Judiciary Committee

SB174 is **not necessary**. Current UA Policy does not ban all weapons and Alaska Gun Law allows restrictions on people and places for concealed carry including restrictions for people under the age of 21. The constitutional right to bear arms is not compromised when restrictions apply only to sensitive locations such as schools, courts, legislative offices, and government buildings. SB174 is inconsistent in restricting Board authority for concealed weapons yet allowing the Board of Regents to regulate open carry, discharge of firearms, and in "restricted access areas".

SB174 prevents UA from properly managing know high risk situations including

- when the behavior of students or employees demonstrates a risk of harm to themselves or others.
- In shared student housing where they otherwise would be accessible to underage roommates and guests, where alcohol is readily available at sporting events
- During adjudication of staff or student disputes, disciplinary or academic actions commonly involving combative and highly stressed students or employees
- During confrontations with unstable and aggressive people in campus spaces such as libraries, museums, or during public events
- In university health and counseling centers and Title IX compliance offices where allegations of sexual assault, sexual harassment and domestic violence are investigated and assistance provided to alleged victims and alleged perpetrators.

SB174 does not help the University fulfill its mission.

Steve Rollins
UAA Faculty and Staff Association

Gayle Keller

From: coldness@acsalaska.net
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 5:26 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: SB174

Dear Honorable Senator Pete Kelly,

I am writing to you to express my **strong opposition** to the SB174, "An Act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska". I have taught general, organic and environmental chemistry at the University of Alaska Southeast for the past 15 years and have on occasion had the unpleasant experience of dealing with students that, because of failing grades, feel they are being treated unfairly. These situations have traditionally been handled with great attention and care through a cooperative and unbiased process involving the student, the UAS administration and myself. Oftentimes, the process can evoke irrational response from the student. Fortunately, concealed weapons are a violation of the University of Alaska Board of Regents Policy and thus the risk of the grade dispute situation turning violent has been minimized. I'm sure you have experienced similar situations dealing with impassioned constituents. Perhaps you can take a moment to consider how you would feel about talking with an aggravated citizen if there were no impediment to that individual entering your office with a firearm. Regardless of whether you feel threatened by this hypothetical scenario, I do indeed feel threatened by the intent of SB174 to remove any impediment to students (and any other persons) to arrive armed to the University of Alaska. Other than to introduce a general level of anxiety and heightened fear of violence on campus, I see no rational reason to allow concealed weapons on the University of Alaska campuses or to limit the Board of Regents ability to determine policy for the University of Alaska campuses.

I urge you to reconsider your support of SB174.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hoferkamp
Associate Professor of Chemistry
University of Alaska Southeast
Juneau, AK

Gayle Keller

From: Kathrin W McCarthy <kwmccarthy@uas.alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 6:59 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: packing

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am writing to let you know that I am completely opposed to UA students carrying concealed or openly displayed guns on campus. Isn't this a Texas thing? I am sorry that you feel that you must distract and obfuscate using this guns on campus rather than dealing with the much more pressing concerns our state has to deal with -- our financial problems.

Sincerely,

Kathrin McCarthy

Gayle Keller

From: Diane Erickson <diane.erickson.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2016 2:38 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: Fwd: Guns on Campus: I oppose it

I am strongly **opposed** to guns on the UA campuses. At a time when you are proposing massive budget cuts to the UA system, you are taking an action that will divert shrinking resources from education to security and policing on the campuses. Research clearly shows that brains are not fully developed until the mid-20's. Before that time, the brain is susceptible to emotional outbursts, especially if alcohol and/drugs are introduced. What a mix....young people who are not fully developed and guns!

If you and your colleagues believe so strongly in 2nd amendment rights, throw open your legislative offices and allow guns. Until you do, you are serving up a load of hypocrisy.....again. You will put the lives of every campus employee and student at risk, but you are not putting yourself out for risk. Get some skin in this game...lead the way...show us how safe it is to have concealed carry in your legislative offices. Stand up for 2nd amendment rights...open up your offices. Unless you do, you don't really believe in 2nd amendment rights...or you are a coward.

The Republican majority in this legislature continues to demonstrate that they don't care about Alaskans. Do the lives of Alaskans working on campus mean so little to you that you can use them as pawns? How do you sleep at night....and do you have your speech ready for when the first person dies on a UA campus if this goes into effect? Because when it happens you will have blood on your hands.

Diane Erickson

The Honorable Pete Kelly
Alaska State Senate
Senator.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov
907-465-3709

Dear Senator,

My name is Colin Osterhout, from Juneau, Alaska. In addition to being an alumnus, I currently work for the University of Alaska Southeast. It is important to note that these thoughts represent my own personal concerns and should not be construed to speak for the university in any official capacity. I am writing today in opposition to SB 174. I view this bill as an unnecessary attempt to hastily enforce partisan beliefs upon the University of Alaska without sufficient research, deliberation, or public input from all stakeholders.

Where is the research that is being drawn upon to inform this discussion? Without any scientifically peer-reviewed data and analysis to back up what would be a major policy shift, I can only assume the motivation behind the bill is ideological in nature. Not a sound basis on which to dictate policy with such wide-ranging implications, some of which may not have been considered, such as the correlation between the increase in suicide rates that goes along with increased access to firearms.

The potential for a "chilling effect" on the learning community has been expressed to me from several faculty members. Instead of a safe learning space in which people can offer their opinions free from threat of physical violence, we are instead fostering a space in which students and faculty members maintain suspicions; this leads to guarded dialog at best.

We are struggling to attract new students to our campuses in a time of decreasing budgets, programs, and local populations. I cannot imagine how the passage of SB 174 would help bolster our image of a safe campus for prospective students or their parents. In a similar vein, how would implementation of this law affect our ability to attract the best faculty and staff in the future?

Recent states and schools around the nation have experienced greatly increased costs from implementing similar laws pertaining to concealed carry of weapons. We simply do not have the staff, space, or budget to deal with this sort of major policy shift.

What is the urgency for passage of this bill? Where is the evidence of overwhelming demand that is driving its passage? By seemingly fast-tracking this legislation, especially in a time of budget crisis, we are circumventing the naturally slower-moving separate Staff Councils, Faculty Senates, Student Governments, and statewide Staff Alliance deliberative processes. Due process is a fundamental concept in our government, we are not honoring that in spirit here.

For what it is worth, I am a gun-owner, hiker, and hunter, and greatly enjoy the outdoors and the freedom to use firearms responsibly. In my opinion however, like church, institutions of higher learning are not well-served by allowing concealed weapons on campus. Please take a minute to consider all the implications of this bill and if security is found to be a real concern for the faculty, staff, and student populations then to find appropriate ways of addressing those concerns in a more constructive manner. Like you, I love serving the citizens of Alaska. I appreciate your time.

Colin Osterhout
Juneau, AK

Gayle Keller

From: Carol Kaynor <carol@carolkaynor.com>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 10:52 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: please, no guns on University of Alaska campuses

Dear Senator Kelly,

Please add my name to those who oppose allowing guns on University of Alaska campuses. I am a staff member at UAF. I work in the Elvey Building at West Ridge. I feel safe here. I would no longer feel safe if guns were allowed on campus.

You write that the answer to a bad man with a gun is a good man with a gun. But this is not the Wild, Wild West, where whoever wins is whoever can draw fastest. Will I feel safer knowing anybody in my building might be carrying? No.

And that's my main point: Prohibiting guns on campuses is a *safety* issue, not a gun-rights issue. Are guns allowed where you work in Juneau? Why not? I imagine it's because you wish to feel safe while you're working for the people of Alaska. The same is true for those of us on campus. We don't want guns here because we wish to feel safe while we're working, studying, teaching.

Please reconsider your bill for the sake of those of us who do, truly, want to feel safe.

Thank you very much,

Carol Kaynor
1125 Cartleb Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712