

Sheila Peterson

From: Russ Newell <mrfreeze_ak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 1:40 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Cc: marizk@alaska.edu; ua.president@alaska.edu; dlmilke@alaska.edu
Subject: Against SB 174 - please do not force guns onto the University's campuses

I am Russ Newell, at 1832 Loose Moose Loop, North Pole, AK. I am an alumni of the University of Alaska with a Masters of Business Administration. I am writing against the proposed Senate Bill 174 to allow guns in the Statewide University campuses.

The Utah legislators passed such a law. As such, Utah State University allows guns on campus. In 2014, that university became a national embarrassment/laughingstock when a scheduled visiting lecturer cancelled in the face of specific death threats. The local police said that the law prevented them from keeping guns out of the lecture area where the speaker was threatened to be shot dead if she gave her talk. The threats also mentioned mass murder. The police were hamstrung by the Utah legislators from protecting the speaker and the public. The invited lecturer never left the Salt Lake City airport and fled in fear.

Is this what Alaska's legislators want for the State of Alaska? And why do this in times of fiscal crisis?

The Utah State story not only made the front page of the New York Times. This story made the cover of Business Week, the cover of Rolling Stone, and was in many other national publications. I have included the Business Week, New York Times, and Rolling Stone links below as well as other. Please read about Utah's experience. Ask yourselves if you want to embarrass the State and the University by passing such legislation. Had the invited speaker given the talk and been killed, the blood would have been on the hands of the Utah legislators.

This is the cover story of Business Week.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/bw/articles/2014-11-26/anita-sarkeesian-battles-sexism-in-games-gamergate-harassment>

The first two paragraphs read:

"One night in October, before the media critic Anita Sarkeesian was scheduled to give a speech at Utah State University, someone e-mailed the school, threatening to commit mass murder. "This will be the deadliest school shooting in American history, and I'm giving you a chance to stop it," the message read. "I have at my disposal a semiautomatic rifle, multiple pistols, and a collection of pipe bombs," it went on. "I will write my manifesto in her spilled blood, and you will all bear witness to what feminist lies and poison have done to the men of America." The message mentioned Marc Lépine, a man who shot and killed 14 women at an engineering college in Montreal in 1989 before killing himself.

"Sarkeesian had been invited by the university's Center for Women and Gender to give a talk about sexism in the video game industry, which has lately become the kind of topic that generates death threats, in large part

because of Sarkeesian's work. As her plane made its way toward Salt Lake City, school officials quickly discussed the e-mail with police and decided it was safe for the talk to go on—it wasn't the first time someone had promised to create havoc at one of her appearances, they reasoned, and nothing too terrible had happened before. The "terror threat," as it was called, was reported in a local newspaper, and Sarkeesian learned about it after she got off the plane and checked Twitter. Her friends were e-mailing: "Are you OK?" She was too scared to leave the airport and called the school. After learning that the event staff couldn't screen for weapons because of Utah's concealed-carry laws, she canceled her talk, got back on a plane, and returned to California."

The New York Times front page article is here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/16/technology/gamergate-women-video-game-threats-anita-sarkeesian.html>

The Rolling Stone cover story is here:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/anita-sarkeesian-gamergate-interview-20141017>

The response of the main Mormon newspaper in Utah is here:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865613500/Utah-gun-law-that-canceled-USU-speech-is-an-embarrassment.html>

Here is CBS News:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/gamergate-guns-and-threats-against-women-collide-in-utah/>

Here are some articles from the Salt Lake Tribune:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58528113-78/sarkeesian-threats-threat-usu.html.csp>

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58521856-78/sarkeesian-usu-video-feminist.html.csp>

<http://www.sltrib.com/blogs/stateofdebate/1709935-155/utah-sarkeesian-threat-anita-feminist-cancels>

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/1734484-155/utah-gun-law-sarkeesian-speech-amend>

Here is the Guardian:

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/oct/22/utah-state-university-defends-handling-gamergate-anita-sarkeesian-threat>

And some other salient links on the Utah State University example:

<http://www.standard.net/Our-View/2014/10/20/Our-View-Amend-Utah-s-gun-law.html>

http://www.salon.com/2014/10/15/when_gun_rights_trump_public_safety

<http://aattp.org/feminist-cancels-speech-after-threats-because-open-carry-laws-make-it-impossible-for-police-to-protect-her/>

Do we want the University of Alaska to be in the same position as Utah State University? As an alumnus, I do not. I would hope the Alaska Senate and House view the state's university campuses as a place of learning for our youths and not a place to embarrass our state nationally over petty politics as has happened in Utah.

Sheila Peterson

From: Jenny Jones <jbjones@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 6:09 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Letter Opposing SB 174 Guns on Campus

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee; I am writing today to urge you to observe your duty to the public and all those who use our University Campuses and **oppose SB 174** in the interest of the safety of all Alaskan citizens. Any efforts to increase the carrying of guns in urban public spaces are ill advised but suggesting that they be carried on University campuses, whether concealed or not, is especially irresponsible. I have been a gun owner for over forty years and I am increasingly alarmed by the line of thinking that civilians carrying guns in public spaces will make anyone or anything safer. The opposite is true and we are made aware of this almost on a daily basis as people, often young children, are injured or die as a result of firearms being discharged in residential areas and buildings. Even the children of our law enforcement personnel are not immune to this scourge. Scared civilians "returning fire" is the last thing we need on campus.

A hand gun is not a weapon of self defense; it is a weapon of offense and those who carry them around in public are presenting a threat to all of the rest of us. Very few civilians are proficient enough shooters to be able to pull a gun out of a holster or a purse and hit the target with the first round. They are even less able to do this in stressful situations where there is a lot of action. Many of these gun carriers have bought weapons for self protection but do not have a history as target-shooters. They do not put in the time at the range needed to be consistently accurate, so the likelihood of them actually being able to hit an assailant is extremely low, and even lower if the assailant shot or attacked first. If they shoot first then they are pre-empting an attack which they supposed was going to happen; this is a very questionable form of self-defense and most of us would call it aggression instead.

There is absolutely no useful reason for a person to bring a gun onto one of our campuses unless they belong to the rifle team or a branch of law enforcement. As an educator and an administrator, it is my duty to try to make sure that students and staff are safe and that becomes next to near impossible if people are carrying guns. Imagine if you will this scenario: a student makes an inappropriate comment to another student and the instructor takes the student aside after class and warns him or her not to repeat the comment. The instructor explains why it is inappropriate to talk that way to another student and warns that if it happens again she will make a report to the Dean. The next class meeting the student shows up armed and sits down in front of the instructor's desk. The student who was the recipient of the rude comment in the previous class is visibly afraid even though the armed student makes no aggressive moves or comments this time. The other students are also nervous and yes, the instructor is less than comfortable with an armed student who may have not enjoyed being reprimanded sitting six feet away from her. I hope you will all agree this does not create a good learning environment for anyone. To make things worse, the armed student has scheduled a meeting with the instructor in her office later the same day to discuss a low grade; perhaps you can imagine how that meeting might proceed? The student arrives at the front desk and our Admin sees the gun concealed under the student's coat and comes to my office shaking to tell me there is a student with a gun who says they have an appointment with a faculty member so at this point fear has spread throughout the office area. The faculty member requests that I attend the meeting with the student because she is afraid for her safety. The end result; a lot of people on edge and intimidated but nothing we can do because the student, while obviously armed, has not taken any action against anyone. This may be different than what you are anticipating by promoting concealed carry (or any carry) of firearms on campus, but I will tell you it is far more likely to occur than the scenario where some young hero "protects" the rest of us from an active shooter.

People carrying guns around instill fear in other people because the primary purpose for a hand-gun is aggression; most of us do not feel safer because a stranger near to us has a gun. If students feel threatened by other students carrying guns then they are likely to start carrying themselves thus increasing the risk to others. You may think it will just be the "good guys" carrying the guns but the reality is that everyone is a "good guy" until they do something bad and we all may have very different ideas about who the good guys are. No one in our classrooms or offices is going to be able to tell a good guy carrying a gun from a bad guy carrying a gun until the bad stuff starts happening. In the ensuing chaos they will still not be able to tell who is who and the job of the police will be made that much harder.

I do not personally know any students or staff who are so afraid for their safety on campus that they feel the need to carry a loaded gun to school. If indeed someone is that afraid or paranoid on a daily basis we have counseling services available that would probably be far more helpful than carrying a gun in terms of increasing a sense of safety. At UAF we have Community Service Officers who will provide escorts for people needing to get to vehicles at times when someone is concerned about walking to their vehicle. We have an excellent campus police force and I would very much prefer to count on them for protection than some armed student in a classroom or corridor. They are trained for that purpose and, in the event that there is a shooting event on campus, they should not be endangered in doing their duty by students or others joining into the fray.

Please do your duty and keep the public safe on our campuses rather than giving in to the demands of a small minority who are very paranoid about the world they live in and have a warped understanding of their "gun rights" and their abilities. Responsible gun owners like myself know that those rights come with responsibilities and one of those responsibilities is the exercise of common sense. Carry guns where they can be used safely; hunting or at the shooting range, and keep them out of public spaces where their use will endanger others.

Thank you for your consideration.
J Bell-Jones

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Jenny Bell-Jones
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Sheila Peterson

From: David Tallmon <dtallmon42@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 3:46 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Subject: Oppose SB 174

Dear Senator Dunleavy-

I write to express my firm opposition to SB 174. I am from Juneau and work at the University of Alaska Southeast and feel strong that SB174 is unnecessary and destructive. It is a solution in search of a problem. Thanks for your time and consideration,
David Tallmon

Sheila Peterson

From: Claudia Markham <claudiamarkham313@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 7:30 AM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Subject: No guns on campus

Dear senator,

I STRONGLY oppose allowing guns on campus.

Claudia Markham
Fairbanks

Envoyé de mon iPad

Sheila Peterson

From: Lili Misel <lmisel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 7:24 AM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SB 174- Oppose Guns on University of Alaska Campuses

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

I read about Pete Kelly's recently introduced bill, SB-174, which takes away the UA Board of Regent's ability to regulate the carrying of concealed handguns at the university, even by persons who do not have a concealed carry permit.

I strongly oppose this bill for a number of reasons- three of which I will list here.

First, the Senate should be focusing only on fixing the budget for the state of Alaska. Institute an income tax, adjust the dividend, and insure that the people who stay in the state have public services to support them.

Second, the current gun policy the BOR has is working. We have not had a major shooting on campus, students are not afraid to attend with their fellow students, teachers are not afraid of grading appropriately because there is not a threat of weapons on campus.

The idea of allowing guns on campus is a ridiculous one. Currently, a person can have a weapon but it must remain in their car and cannot be brought into buildings. To allow weapons into the classroom where tempers can grow hot because of bad grades, Financial Aid has been denied because of not meeting satisfactory academic progress, a strong debate between classmates over a an ethical subject, or because of mental instability would but more people in harm's way. What about the dorms? Alcohol is a part of weekends on campus and the idea of having weapons easily available to drunk students is a recipe for disaster for not only violence against each other but suicide attempts.

I have worked for UAF for 15 years. During that time, I supervised the Graduation Office. I cannot tell you the number of times where my staff and I spoke with students who were not able to graduate because they'd failed a class. They were not mad at themselves for not completing the work, they were mad at us - the staff- because we told them they were not graduating. We had incidents where the staff were personally afraid for themselves because of the emotional reaction of the non-graduating student. My staff had worked out a plan on what to do if they were faced with active shooter because of this issue. Again, to allow guns in a university building - with a person who is already angry and blames the university for not "allowing" them to graduate rather than themselves is not safe and not necessary.

The Board of Regents has a current policy that is working.

Stop SB-174. Do not support this short sighted bill.

Sincerely,

Lillian Anderson-Misel
Fairbanks, AK

This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast.
www.avast.com



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Senator Lesil McGuire
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau Alaska, 99801

February 16, 2016

Senator Mike Dunleavy
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau Alaska, 99801

Dear Senators McGuire and Dunleavy:

The Student Services Council (SSC) of the University of Alaska, comprised of the Officers with the responsibility of overseeing student life operations on the University campuses including residence halls, student activities and health and wellness *oppose* SB 174.

Foremost in our reasoning: the challenges inherent to college life (including the stress and social obstacles found in high density communal living) which when combined with the presence of alcohol and drugs, and overlain with weapons, could have potentially lethal consequences for our campus communities. Given such stresses, we contend that introducing guns into this mix increases the safety risks to students, faculty and staff.

This isn't about being pro or anti guns. UA allows weapons on campus in a reasonable way, such as in secure storage, at special events and in locked cars. SB 174 creates a situation where UA is responsible for conduct in shared student housing but is unable to do what makes sense.

The availability of weapons on campus could also have an adverse impact on the student suicide rate. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for American college students¹, and thousands more attempt suicide but do not succeed. Add to this that the State of Alaska's suicide rate is nearly twice the national average and the leading cause of death in Alaska for people ages 15 to 24² and our collective concern deepens.

Open access to firearms on campus and especially in residence halls would likely worsen this serious problem, as suicide attempts involving firearms are almost always fatal. Weapons in residence halls will also require training 18, 19, or 20-year-old student employees - Resident Assistants ("RA's") to deescalate students in possession of a weapon and possibly impaired. While hard to predict, it is reasonable that many students will choose to no longer work in residence halls and either work off campus or perhaps take more in student loans to pay for their educations. This chilling effect on the ability to recruit, retain, and properly train employees extends to both students and staff.

The University of Alaska campuses are places of education and training that have been specifically set aside for debate; the free exchange of ideas, exploration and discovery among young people making the transition to adulthood. Weapons on campus don't enhance that learning and growth experience; they detract from it.

Sincerely,

Saichi Oba
UA
Associate VP
Student & Enrollment

Dr. Bruce Schultz
UAA
Vice Chancellor
Student Affairs

Dr. Michael Sfraga
UAF
Vice Chancellor
University & Student
Advancement

Joe Nelson
UAS
Vice Chancellor
Enrollment Mgmt. &
Student Affairs

¹ Suicide Prevention Resource Center, <http://www.sprc.org/collegesanduniversities/campus-data/prevalence>

² <http://www.adn.com/2013/11/23/3193331/study-suggests-connection-between.html>



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

February 16, 2016

Senate Education Committee
C/O Senator Mike Dunleavy, Chair
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 174

Dear Senators Dunleavy, Huggins, Giessel, Stevens and Gardner:

I am writing on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) to express opposition for SB174 that if passed, would allow firearms on our university campuses. Each semester Kenai Peninsula College (KPC) has approximately 170 KPBSD students taking college level courses for dual credit. In addition, over the next six months KPC will host more than 200 high school age students for various college orientation programs. It would be disconcerting to know that KPBSD students, most of whom are minors, might be attending classes with armed classmates.

The safety and welfare of our students is my number one priority. As such, I am concerned that the movement by my students from a gun free high school to a campus with armed students may offer a situation that is difficult to monitor. Finally, arming college students while they are on campus, and, or, living in the dorm in my opinion creates a volatile situation.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Sincerely,

Sean Dusek
Superintendent of Schools

Testimony regarding: SB 174: "An Act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska."

February 16, 2016

Lynn Willis, Eagle River, Alaska

First, please clearly define a "gun free zone". Absent positive screening for firearms such as at an airport or courthouse no zone in Alaska is anywhere near being certifiably "gun free". Are you willing to spend the money to secure our Universities to a level that might create an equivalent "gun free zone" in order to rationalize this legislative effort? Second, regarding firearms I assume this legislation would involve the carrying of handguns more than rifles. Proficiency with use of any firearm (and especially a handgun) requires frequent shooting of that weapon and that training has to be oriented toward use of that weapon in a combat scenario for the shooter to be effective in a confrontational situation; otherwise, the shooter can present more of a problem than a solution.

Lastly, I do appreciate the hypocrisy of those who would encourage the carrying of firearms on a University campus but not in the halls of the Alaska Legislature. At future public testimony might a citizen want to lay a loaded M1911A1 .45 cal. semi-automatic handgun on the table before them to align themselves with the philosophy promulgated in this extract from a published opinion article that appeared in the Anchorage Daily News dated February 8, 2013 signed by five currently sitting Alaska Legislators:

"Our Second Amendment has its roots in the natural right to self-defense, which was originally codified in the English Bill of Rights of 1689 following the overthrow of King James II during the Glorious Revolution. Americans use their arms for a variety of purposes, **but we must not forget the right to keep and bear arms was originally intended to be a check on government power.**" (Emphasis added).

Before you move this legislation with a recommend "DO PASS", you might want to reflect on that old adage: "What goes around comes around".

Thank you.