



**Kenai Peninsula College**

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

## **A Resolution of the Kenai Peninsula College Community Council Urging the Alaska Legislature to Reject Senate Bill 174.**

Whereas, members of the Kenai Peninsula College Council are decades-long community members seeking to further quality higher education within the State of Alaska, are generally owners and users of firearms, and are in some instances University of Alaska graduates and the parents of current and past University of Alaska students; and

Whereas, Alaska consistently has among the highest rates of gun-crime violence and deaths of any state in the country; and

Whereas, in the interest of general public safety and civilized debate of controversial issues, the Alaska Legislature has provided for a variety of areas, such as legislative and administrative offices, in which the possession of firearms is already prohibited; and,

Whereas, campus gun violence has increased greatly in recent years and threatens the safety and constructive learning environment of our Alaska campuses; and

Whereas, substance abuse concerns have likewise increased markedly in recent years, particularly among younger adults, rendering regular campus firearm possession by such persons to be an increased threat to general safety and damaging to civil discussion of controversial issues; and,

Whereas, recent forensic reaction-time studies conducted by national police organizations demonstrate that even highly trained and experienced police officers cannot consistently deploy and accurately fire their own firearms in shooting situations fast enough to protect themselves and prevent gun-related crimes, even though the reaction-time of trained police officers is several times faster than less-well-trained gun owners; and,

Whereas, this generally results in situations where armed innocent civilians would be unlikely to react appropriately to sudden campus shooting situations without in fact causing increased danger to themselves and others innocent persons; and,

Whereas, police reacting to a campus active-shooter situation where other armed civilians are visible cannot quickly discern who is the active shooter and which innocent armed civilians were reacting to a potential active shooter, thereby greatly increasing the danger to both innocent armed students and to police, as well as potential civil liability for police and State Troopers; and,

Whereas, national police associations have, as a result, generally taken positions supporting the prohibition of concealed weapons on school and college campuses by students; and,

Whereas, under such circumstances, the suggestion that encouraging concealed weapons on campus might curb campus violence is contrary to recent police studies and recommendations, particularly given the rise of substance abuse, and would be unlikely to reduce campus violence; and

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Kachemak Bay Campus – 533 East Pioneer Ave – Homer, Alaska 99603

Anchorage Extension Site – 3901 Old Seward Hwy, Suite 118 – Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Resurrection Bay Extension Site – P.O. Box 1049 – Seward, Alaska 99664

Whereas, many senior University of Alaska leaders are, or have been, retired career military personnel, persons who are well-trained and experienced in the appropriate use of force and in dealing with young personnel, and such UA leaders have consistently urged the prohibition of firearms and other weapons on University of Alaska campuses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Kenai Peninsula College Community Council that the Council urges the defeat of Senate Bill 174, which affects the University of Alaska's ability to regulate and prohibit the carrying of weapons on UA college campuses. The Council takes this action in the belief that passage of SB 174 would likely increase the risk of death and injury on University campuses.

This Resolution was adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2016

  
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Hal V. Smalley, Council Chair