

Janet Ogan

From: molly krehlik <mollykrehlik@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 8:35 PM
Subject: A few more reasons to NOT ALLOW GUNS ON CAMPUS!!!

Hello Representatives,

Thank you for reading my letter yesterday and taking the time to read another today.

When considering the legislation regarding guns on campus I would like you to consider the role of the government. Regarding all legislation we must put our biases aside, put aside our individual self interest, and look at data. We must try to remove some of the emotion from decision making (just as we are asked to do in the hospital "evidenced based medicine," we need to practice "evidenced based legislation"- if you expect this of your health care providers, society should expect this from our elected legislatures). What can and should we expect from our government? I have been thinking a lot about this lately. We need to consider why we are not an anarchist nation and have a government in place. I have come up with 2 solid reasons the United States and Alaskan Government is in place:

1) To provide a structure for a fair and efficient economic system. Alaska is currently having a budget crisis. We need to be cautious and thoughtful regarding how we use our money. Allowing guns on campus will be costly (I have seen quoted 1.3 million dollars in the Juneau Empire My Turn section). This is not good spending! If we are putting this legislation in place due to fear of mass shootings and allowing people to "protect themselves," we need to reconsider. We need to put money into mental health, conflict resolution and if we still carry fear in our hearts regarding safety on campus we need to put a more reliable system in place. Arming young adults will surely make a campus environment much more dangerous than it already is. This measure is not an economically effective way to feel more secure in our place of learning.

2) To minimize suffering for the citizens. The legislation regarding guns on campus will create more suffering for all Alaskans. The likelihood that there will be gun related accidents is much too high to allow this legislation to go through. The likelihood that an emotionally charged young adult acts out of fear in a way that they will regret is much too high to allow this legislation to go through. The likelihood that our representatives will feel shame, embarrassment and regret when motivated, inspired students are harmed and die in the hands of fellow students is much too high to allow this legislation to go through.

How are students to study on campus knowing there are guns present? They will be living in fear. This undermines the purpose of our government. They will not be able to efficiently complete their studies and become thoughtful voters and contributors to the Alaskan economy.

Please, do not act out of emotion or pride when considering this legislation. Please consider your fellow Alaskans, our future and the current state of economy.

After reading this letter if you still plan to vote yes to allow this legislation to go through please thoughtfully and respectfully respond to my letter. I care about your family, I do not think this legislation makes a safe learning environment for your family or loved ones.

Thank you for your time.

Molly Tarby

Janet Ogan

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of David Neetz <lambeau@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:23 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Alaska: Support Campus Carry legislation, Senate Bill 174

Dear Representative Wes Keller:

As a fellow resident of Alaska, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 174. This important legislation would allow students, faculty and guests to own, possess, carry, transport or store a firearm on areas of the University of Alaska campus where not prohibited by law. A state-funded institution should not be allowed to impose rules more strict than state law, especially rules to limit the right to self-defense. Individuals should not be prevented from exercising their right to self-defense simply because they choose to seek a college education.

Again, as a resident of Alaska, I urge you to support Senate Bill 174.

Sincerely,
David Neetz
1584 Heather Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99709-2638

Janet Ogan

From: Nancy Krehlik <nkrehlik@me.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 9:29 AM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Concealed Carry on UA campus

Dear Elected Officials,

I am contacting you today to let you know that I am opposed to any bill that allows the concealed carrying of firearms on UA or any other campus. I believe that it unnecessarily puts lives in danger. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Thank you

Nancy Krehlik

Janet Ogan

From: Snow-Hydro <SnowHydroAK@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 11:42 AM
To: Janet Ogan; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Sen. John Coghill; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: guns on campus

Dear Alaska Legislators:

I am a Professor of Geophysics at the University of Alaska, the head of the Snow-Ice-Permafrost Group. Prior to that I was with the U.S. Army Cold Regions Laboratory-Alaska, where I was the Chief Scientist. I have been doing cryospheric research for 36 years in Alaska, and have received a number of honors for my research. In addition, I have brought in millions of dollars of research money, and have educated many students about high latitude geophysics.

A university is no place for guns (even though I own many and I hunt). It is simply inappropriate....just as packing guns at church, in the legislature, or at an elementary school, would be inappropriate. The legislation of SB174 is motivated by an utterly unproven premise (that more guns will stop mass violence). Often the result is just the opposite, a fact many law enforcement officers endorse. So on that score, this is bad bill.

But there is more: speaking for myself, I would refuse to teach a class in which students came in armed. Many of my colleagues have expressed the same view. I suppose the university could take the view that then I (or any others taking the same stand) would have to be terminated, and I would accept that.....but consider that this, coupled with the extreme budget cuts, is likely to have the effect of forcing the best and brightest to leave.

So instead of making UA more safe, SB174 is likely to do serious damage to the reputation, excellence, accreditation, and the ability of UA provide a quality education to Alaskans. And this on top of catastrophic budget cuts.

Consider before acting, please.

Matthew Sturm

--
Matthew Sturm
Snow-Hydro
693 Gold Vein Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712
907-457-1898

www.snowhydro.com

Janet Ogan

From: bobi.michael@gmail.com on behalf of Bobi Rinehart <bobi@rbfundraising.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Cc: Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: I oppose SB 174

Members of the House Education Committee:

As a UAA employee, I deeply oppose guns being allowed on our campus (SB 174)

On January 8, 2011, my opinions of guns were altered forever. On that day, a friend of mine was brutally shot while serving her community. Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and I attended undergraduate college together. She is one of the brightest lights I have known, so full of life and service. To watch what she has gone through has been terrible. The last time I saw her was in July 2013 during her visit to Alaska. While she is the same Gabby, her life is a struggle, and I know that the struggle will always be with her...

I think that when a culture supports guns, it leads to more events like the one that changed Gabby's life forever.

Since I feel so strongly about guns, I find myself in a difficult position. I have been raising money for UAA for over 3.5 years and until now, I have been able to say confidently, "Yes, UAA is my University. I want my daughter to attend UAA." However, because of these proposed changes, I have my first reservations about encouraging the people I love to attend UAA.

I hope that you will do everything in your power to discourage guns on campus and if that just isn't possible, please make sure that all of the UA Regent's amendments are added to the bill.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

All my best,
Bobi Rinehart, UAA's Lead Development Officer
16461 Saint James Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

Janet Ogan

From: Rosary Lombardo <rosarylombardo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 6:44 AM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault
Subject: Please do NOT ALLOW the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass

Dear Representative,

I am very very sad to see that legislation is working it's way to allow concealed and carried guns on college campuses. **Please do not allow the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass.** More guns do not solve our violence/shooting problem in America. We need peaceful ways of dealing with our problems. There are a number of reasons why I am against this legislation:

1) **Accidents:** I have heard countless stories of guns accidentally killing innocent victims and loved ones. Why increase the chance of this happening when the goal is learning about caring for your world and furthering your education? There are countless examples of accidents with guns in the news (children accidentally shooting their sibling, children accidentally shooting their parent, police shooting innocent victims)... the list goes on.

2) **Inappropriateness of arming emotionally charged young adults.**

College students are often emotionally charged, we can not allow and encourage students to bring guns to a place of learning. Emotionally charged people often act out of anger, not out of sensibility; and when armed this will cause regrets on the part of the shooter and all the loved ones of the victim.

3) **Living with Regret.** I know that when I am frightened I do not act sensibly. The likelihood that I would accidentally shoot a friend is much higher than the likelihood that I would thwart an attacker. I feel that this is a likely outcome for the majority of people. This is why I believe bear spray is a much better alternative to guns. With bear spray you have a wide cloud to prevent an unarmed individual from hurting you, you do not cause permanent damage to a misunderstood individual, you are much less likely to cause permanent damage to yourself. Who wants to live with the reality that they killed or significantly hurt another human? I would likely rather die quickly than living the remainder of my life in fear and agony over the actions I took.

I believe that if this legislation passes we will see more gun violence, accidents and sadness in our communities, not less. This legislation will harm Alaskans. Please do not allow this legislation to pass, if you do you will too soon feel regret when accidents and unnecessary harm ensure.

Thank you for your concern, I look forward to seeing you halt this legislation and actively pursuing peaceful resolution to conflicts and differences.

Rosary Lombardo
5090 Blueberry Lane
Juneau, AK 99801
rosarylombardo@gmail.com

Janet Ogan

From: Marian Elliott <dmelliott@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Re Gun Bill

Dear Rep. Keller, Just heard from both my grandchildren that they are no longer interested in attending UAA. They were already second guessing it because of the cancelation of programs and empty professor positions but the gun bill finished any hope they would go to school in Alaska and make their future here. It occurred to me that members of our legislature have no idea of the angst our children live with because of repeated stories of gun violence in schools and regular practice in lock down drills. As my grandson put it "The last thing I need is to be sitting in class wondering who has a gun in his backpack." No intelligent person falls for the nonsense that the good guy with a gun is protection against the bad guy with a gun. That's pure NRA spin put out there to sell guns. The good guy isn't going to stop the bad guy until AFTER the bad guy does something bad. This bill is pure pandering with a phony argument to back it up that insults every one's intelligence. I don't know how you people sleep at night.

Marian Elliott
907-376-5196

Janet Ogan

From: Kate Govaars <kategovaars@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 2:30 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Cc: Rep. Daniel Ortiz
Subject: SB 174 - Guns on Campus

Dear Rep. Keller -

My name is Kate Govaars. I am a new resident of the state of Alaska and a new employee at UAS in Ketchikan. While I am new to this institution, I have worked at colleges across the country for the past decade.

I hope you will consider and confirm the amendments the University of Alaska Board of Regents have supplied for bill SB 174 - Weapons on Campus. While I understand allowing weapons on campus can add safety in the event of a mass-shooting, I think provisions must be included that allow administrators to create specific safe spaces on campus free of weapons.

Let me provide some background. I served as an on-call crisis manager for a residential campus where I lived and worked in the dorms. Having guns in the dorms could have been an absolute nightmare for me and would have lead to an increase in deaths among my students.

College dorms are filled with students trying to figure themselves out and make friends. Often, social lubricants are used to create these connections (i.e. alcohol and other drugs). I don't think it comes as any surprise that gun-related accidents increase exponentially when alcohol or drugs are mixed into the equation.

Not only is intoxication an issue in the dorms, but depression and suicidal ideation are prevalent. In my past role as an on-campus crisis responder, I had to respond to a call where a student had attempted to hang herself. I have not only encountered that, but I have talked countless students through suicidal thoughts in their very dorm rooms. Had these students possessed guns, not only would they have been a risk to themselves, but they may have been a risk to me in my attempt to support and calm them.

Students looking to harm themselves or others and have access to guns within the dorms will be successful even if the student didn't personally own or possess a gun.

It is unrealistic to think a college-aged student possessing a gun in the dorms allowed through this bill will be completely diligent in locking their guns much less their dorm rooms.

I firmly believe we will see an increase in gun-related injuries and death if guns are allowed in the dorms.

I am not suggesting this bill doesn't move forward. What I am suggesting is that you take into account the amendments proposed by the men and women who have lived and worked in these environments, many of whom are gun owners themselves. I guarantee you, should this bill pass in it's current state, **blood will be on your heads if guns are allowed in the dorms.**

Thank you for thinking critically about this bill and the safety of the students, staff, and faculty.

Sincerely,

Kate Govaars
Ketchikan, AK

Janet Ogan

From: RONALDA CADIENTE BROWN <r1cadiente@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 1:26 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB 174

Members,

I am opposed to the bill allowing concealed weapons on university campuses in Alaska. I am a life-long Alaskan and educator and respect the use of firearms for subsistence, sport hunting, and protection in our wilderness.

There exists no civilization to protect the rights of its citizens by arming individuals regardless of their cognitive abilities, mental health, or emotional disposition. It is contradictory to me that an individual be allowed to exercise their right to carry arms to an institution that has responsibility for not only educating but protecting those in their charge. There is an inherent fallacy that guns on campus would exercise safety for all and serve as a deterrent for those intent on causing harm to others.

Please instead focus your energy and our limited resources on the great needs of behavioral health supports and interventions.

RONALDA CADIENTE BROWN
1970 Fritz Cove Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Janet Ogan

From: Heidi Mannion <heidi_mannion@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:24 AM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB 174

I have been a faculty member at UAA for the last 19 years, the only time I have been concerned for my safety is when I had to cross Providence Drive to get from my office to the new Health Science Building. I was hit once and drove across the street until they built the overpass. If you want to improve safety, address the issues on our roads. Guns on campus will not make us safer and accidents will happen. What I find most frustrating is the fact that the faculty, staff and students have all provided written documents opposing the bill and yet the Senate passed the bill. I am tired of the NRA overriding the will of the majority by buying votes. If the legislators believe that gun free areas are targets for mass shootings than I want to protect my state government by allowing guns whenever and wherever they meet. I will be the first to sign the initiative to make our legislators safe.

It is time for the legislature to do their job, pass a budget that includes making state government more efficient, eliminating waste and using a combination of sales tax and the permanent fund to balance the budget. Quit distracting the public by addressing contentious issues like the guns on campus and sex education in our schools. The current systems work, leave them alone.

Dr. Heidi Mannion
3951 Apollo Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
907-333-8181

Janet Ogan

From: Scott Chesney <musher@talespinmedia.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:01 AM
To: Kalyssa Maile
Cc: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: SB174

Dear Legislators:

I'll make this short and sweet; we all have other things we can be doing. SB174 is a bad idea and should be killed. It will not improve safety on campuses, and is nothing more than a sop to extremists at the right hand end of the political spectrum.

One reason given for the bill is to improve campus safety. It will do nothing of the sort and, to the contrary, will do just the opposite. Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley recently addressed Congress on base security and said this: "I've been around guns all my life. I know how to use them, and arming our people on our military bases and allowing them to carry concealed, privately owned weapons — I do not recommend that as a force protection. We have adequate law enforcement on those bases to respond. You take the Ft. Hood incident number two, where I was commander at Third Corps, those police responded within eight minutes and that guy was dead. So, that's pretty quick, and a lot of people died in the process of that, but that was a very fast-evolving event, and I am not convinced, from what I know, that carrying privately-owned weapons would have stopped that individual."

The bill has been characterized as defending the rights of citizens enumerated in the second amendment to the US constitution and article 1 of the Alaska state constitution. On its face, this is consistent with established law but, upon further examination in which the context of the bill is considered, i.e. campuses of the University, this falls flat. In *DC vs. Heller*, Justice Scalia wrote: "Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose: For example, concealed weapons prohibitions have been upheld under the Amendment or state analogues. The Court's opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms."

In short, SB 174 is not needed, will not achieve its purported purpose, and is contrary to both the best interests of Alaskans and the US Constitution.

Respectfully,

Scott Chesney

P.O. Box 84396

Fairbanks, AK 99708



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Janet Ogan

From: PDunscomb@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 5:32 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; representative.ivy.spanholtz@akleg.gov; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Matt Claman; representative.jonathon.kreiss-tomkins@akleg.gov
Subject: Testimony on SB 174

Dear Members of the House Education and Judiciary Committees:

My name is Prof. Paul Dunscomb, Chair of the Department of History at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I hope you will accept this e-mail in place of public testimony regarding your discussion of SB 174 forbidding the Board of Regents to regulate the carrying of weapons on University of Alaska campuses.

Along with the vast majority of my faculty and staff colleagues, as well as my students, I would hope that you would consider rejecting the bill outright. I realize, however, that the prospect of this is remote. Instead I would hope that you would at least be prepared to add the amendments requested by the Board of Regents which might make this situation minimally tolerable.

1. When a student's or employee's behavior indicates a risk of harm to self or others;
2. In student dormitories or other shared student living quarters;
3. In health and counseling, discrimination, harassment and Title IX offices;
4. During adjudication of staff or student disputes or disciplinary issues;
5. In K-12 programs; and,
6. Requiring a concealed carry permit to carry concealed weapons on campus.

As you are considering these bills I would also ask you to think very hard about the fact that the most relevant law at work here will be the law of unintended consequences. Consider the costs of the endless litigation likely to ensue as those opposed to the law take UA to court to prevent its implementation. Or consider the worrisome precedent established by usurping the authority of the Board of Regents and how future legislatures might wish to extend their reach.

Consider that while a day may come when an active shooter incident occurs on one of UA's campuses, who will feel safer knowing there are an unknown number of amped up and untrained civilians prepared to shoot anyone they think is holding a weapon. Consider that first responders will be forced to choose between shooting any armed civilian they encounter first and ask questions later or will hesitate to do so, possibly endangering themselves and others.

But the greatest unintended consequence of all will be that every other day when such an event does not occur, the campuses of the University of Alaska system will suffer the chilling effects of a climate of fear and uncertainty over who might have a weapon and at what point might they choose to inject that weapon into the contentious and sometimes forceful exchange that the University exists to foster. In classrooms, in dorm rooms, in the student union, in corridors and gyms, in laboratories, throughout the open public square that the university represents, students, faculty and staff mix and mingle and exchange ideas and opinions, often passionately. How could someone not feel intimidated or reluctant to speak out when the potential consequences of doing so are raised so dramatically by the bill?

Of course, the university is also a workplace as fraught with the ordinary tensions of the working world as any other. But there are additional areas of contention, too. Grades are disputed (in professor's offices or in formal hearings), faculty are reviewed (and sometimes denied) for promotion and tenure, hearings are held regarding inappropriate behavior (under Federal Title IX or other statutes). Denying the ability of the Board of Regents to regulate carrying weapons into those sorts of situations is simply irresponsible. It is also very likely illegal under federal statutes (hence the likelihood of litigation).

Passionate defenders of the Second Amendment will insist that the best means of protecting the First Amendment in such a case is to bring a weapon of your own. Doubtless they would point to the old saw "an armed society is a polite society." Maybe, but only after the impolite have been ruthlessly culled. Mutually assured destruction provides no guarantee of free speech. It does vastly increase the possibility of a fateful confrontation with lethal consequences.

I ask you please not to sacrifice the First Amendment on the alter of the Second. It would be best to reject SB 174 but at least allow the Board of Regents the authority to regulate weapons on campus as is their trust and charge.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Prof. Paul Dunscomb

Chair

Department of History

University of Alaska Anchorage

Janet Ogan

From: Paige Ruesch <paigegingrich@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 4:00 PM
To: Kalyssa Maile; Sen. John Coghill; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: Written testimony "Senate Bill 174 concealed carry on campus"

I am staff at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and I work on campus. I also live in Fairbanks in a gun owning and gun respecting household. However, please note that I am passionately against concealed carry on campus for several reasons:

1) Concealed Carry would detract from the healthy learning environment currently offered at UAF. Undoubtedly many students, staff, and faculty would not feel safe or comfortable knowing that fellow students, workers, or professors were concealing a weapon in their presence. This feeling would certainly transition to future students and/or the recruiting success of getting new students, staff, and faculty who may consider going elsewhere. This is a point that is extremely important to consider during a time of budgetary shortfall. Additionally, on a college campus where alcohol and drugs tend to be prevalent and often abused, any combination of alcohol, drugs and guns is a dangerous mix.

2) The potential risks and effects of concealed carry on campus overwhelmingly outweigh the notion that a "bad guy with a gun will be stopped by a good guy with a gun." This notion is just that...an idea. It is an idea bathed in anecdotes and a false sense of pride in gun operation. I say false NOT because those who wish to conceal carry are unaware of how to use a gun properly or shoot accurately. In most cases, these gun owners are well versed in the maintenance, safety, and effective use of their firearms. I say false BECAUSE those who wish to conceal carry do NOT know what it is like to use a gun in EXTREME stress, fear, or anger. They would naturally undergo a stress response of tunnel vision, increased heart rate, audio exclusion and time dilation. Those trained in combat can learn to control these physiological responses over time...but not a typical UAF campus attendee with a concealed carry permit.

Here is another take on the aforementioned "good guy with a gun" argument:

"The notion that you have a seal of approval just because you're not a criminal—that you walk into a gun store and you're ready for game-day—is ridiculous" -David Chipman, former agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Thank you for your time and consideration. Good luck in your proceedings and thank your for your representation.

J. Paige Ruesch
Fairbanks, Alaska

Janet Ogan

From: Alexis Walker <amwalker8@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:21 PM
To: Kalyssa Maile; Janet Ogan; Rep. David Guttenberg
Cc: Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Against SB 174

Dear Committee Members,

I am vehemently against bill SB 174 as a UAF student and employee, Fairbanksan, and as a human being. There are specific situations in which carrying a weapon such as a gun or knife is appropriate, however in dorm rooms and university buildings is not one of them. I will not attend classes or continue my graduate school degree at UAF if this bill is passed and put into effect. The UA system will likely lose \$1000s in potential tuition from students whose parents do not want it legal to have concealed weapons in dorm rooms. The cons far outweigh the pros of this bill. Please consider the potential impacts of this bill and how it will effect the community of Fairbanks.

Sincerely,
Alexis Walker PhD student

Janet Ogan

From: Helen Clough <hcloughak@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 4:18 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Bill allowing concealed weapons on University of Alaska campuses

Dear Representative Keller,

I implore you to reconsider this bill and **not** pass it. I am totally in favor of private ownership of guns and own several. But I remember being a college student - many, many years ago and the idea that my classmates or fellow dorm residents could be armed and I wouldn't even know it is just plain wrong. College is a time of great emotional upheaval for many and being armed is way more dangerous than the idea that some lunatic will come on campus and start shooting and that lives would be saved by a student, professor or visitor armed with a concealed weapon. In fact, do you know that at least a few years ago, most police officers that were killed in the line of duty were actually shot with their own weapons?

Plus even as a person who has shot guns her whole life, I do not think I would be any good with a weapon in an active shooter situation. I am not a trained police officer. Police officers have extensive training in the uses of firearms and frequent recurrent training and even they sometimes shoot in error. Regular shooting at a range does not prepare one for active shooting situations.

Also I have to vote on the Juneau campus and would fear for my safety if concealed weapons were present.

Please do not pass this bill. It has nothing to do with gun rights. It puts everyone in the university at risk for no gain. Especially at this time, I and other voters sincerely believe you and your colleagues should focus on the fiscal situation not distracted with other issues.

Thank you for considering my opinion. Please at least set aside this legislation for this session and focus on the budget.

Helen Clough
Juneau, AK

907 321 4004

Janet Ogan

From: Carol Kleckner <kleckner@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 5:33 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: concealed carry

REALLY!!!???? This is a huge mistake for the University. Please get this repealed if at all possible.

If I was a young person and this passed on my campus, I would be changing Universities. As it is, I'm a 24 year Fairbanks resident (31 years in Alaska) and am so disappointed and scared that this made it through our government.

Carol Kleckner

Janet Ogan

From: Kirk Wickersham <kirkwickersham@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:41 AM
To: Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Reply to Comment; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; representative.ivy.sponholz@akleg.gov
Subject: Guns on Campus

- > Dear Members of the Education Committee,
- >
- > In 2014, the other Regents and I opposed a bill requiring the University to allow conceal carry on campus. I still do.
- >
- > The US and Alaska Constitutions do not require it.
- >
- > Things have worked fine for the past 100 years on campus. There have been very few violent crimes on campus, and no evidence that conceal carry would reduce crime any further. In other words, it is a solution to a problem that does not exist.
- >
- > Virtually no one involved with the University is asking for this; virtually everyone on campus opposes the bill.
- >
- > The logic of concealed carry in a crowded setting is this: I do not trust you, but you have to trust me.
- >
- > Think of it this way: all of you have gone to college. Would you have wanted your professors, classmates, staff and anyone at all who comes on campus, to be carrying? At the anti-war riots at Berkeley during the 60s? During the furious protests on the Yale campus last winter?
- >
- > The University is facing cutbacks and elimination of academic programs. How many English or math or welding teachers will be laid off so we can hire more campus cops?
- >
- > Legislators who support this bill need to confront the hypocrisy of disallowing guns in your workplace, while simultaneously requiring others to deal with guns in theirs. This has been featured repeatedly in the Anchorage TV and newspaper reports on this issue.
- >
- > Do you think this is going to make the University more attractive to prospective students, their parents and their guidance counselors? How many alums will now say, I'm finally ready to make a big contribution to my alma mater?
- >
- > In the same vein, why not place similar requirements on other venues? Guns in the classroom? Church? Courtrooms?
- >
- > Please end this made up drama here and now. Please use the time you have left in the session to deal with fiscal and other issues that are both real and pressing.
- >
- > Sincerely,
- >

- > Kirk Wickersham
- > B.A. University of Alaska, 1966
- > Regent 2007-2015

Janet Ogan

From: Marie T Williams <mtwilliams5@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:32 PM
To: Janet Ogan; Kalyssa Maile
Cc: Rep. Geran Tarr
Subject: Message for the House Education and House Judiciary Committees regarding SB 174

I am an employee of the University of Alaska Anchorage. It is becoming more and more apparent that Alaska's elected officials have very little regard for the students, staff, faculty and administration of the University. The threat of extreme budget cuts has many of us worried about our financial futures. This is a very stressful time for all of us who are depending on the University for our education and livelihood.

Now, to add to what is already a stressful environment, our Legislature is working to allow widespread use of knives and firearms across all University campuses across the state. Polls that I have seen of University staff, faculty and administrators have indicated a strong opposition to this legislation. SB 174 removes power from the University's Board of Regents to enact policies that are considered to be in the best interest of all who are involved in campus activities. As a compromise, the Board of Regents presented six amendments to the bill as it was written. All but two were ignored. To completely disregard the request of a highly respected and qualified group such as that is very disturbing.

As a citizen, I look to our legislature to enact laws that are in the best interest to the people of this state. It is our lawmakers' responsibility to provide safety to the people of Alaska. SB 174 unravels that responsibility. As a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska, I too have certain rights. I have the right to live in a healthy environment, to be able to work at a job where I feel safe. I should not feel that I need to "defend" myself each day when I go to work. There are many short-tempered and mentally unstable people in this world. The thought of those people carrying guns because it is their "right" is terrifying.

The goal of the University of Alaska is to provide a better quality of life for the people of Alaska. I do not understand why our lawmakers refuse to see that.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT SENATE BILL 174.

Marie T. Williams

Janet Ogan

From: molly krehlik <mollykrehlik@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 7:43 PM
Subject: Please do not allow the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass

Dear Representative,

I am very very sad to see that legislation is working it's way to allow concealed and carried guns on college campuses. **Please do not allow the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass.** More guns do not solve our violence/shooting problem in America. We need peaceful ways of dealing with our problems. There are a number of reasons why I am against this legislation:

1) **Accidents:** I have heard countless stories of guns accidentally killing innocent victims and loved ones. Why increase the chance of this happening when the goal is learning about caring for your world and furthering your education? There are countless examples of accidents with guns in the news (children accidentally shooting their sibling, children accidentally shooting their parent, police shooting innocent victims)... the list goes on.

2) **Inappropriateness of arming emotionally charged young adults.**

College students are often emotionally charged, we can not allow and encourage students to bring guns to a place of learning. Emotionally charged people often act out of anger, not out of sensibility; and when armed this will cause regrets on the part of the shooter and all the loved ones of the victim.

3) **Living with Regret.** I know that when I am frightened I do not act sensibly. The likelihood that I would accidentally shoot a friend is much higher than the likelihood that I would thwart an attacker. I feel that this is a likely outcome for the majority of people. This is why I believe bear spray is a much better alternative to guns. With bear spray you have a wide cloud to prevent an unarmed individual from hurting you, you do not cause permanent damage to a misunderstood individual, you are much less likely to cause permanent damage to yourself. Who wants to live with the reality that they killed or significantly hurt another human? I would likely rather die quickly than living the remainder of my life in fear and agony over the actions I took.

I believe that if this legislation passes we will see more gun violence, accidents and sadness in our communities, not less. This legislation will harm Alaskans. Please do not allow this legislation to pass, if you do you will too soon feel regret when accidents and unnecessary harm ensure.

Thank you for your concern, I look forward to seeing you halt this legislation and actively pursuing peaceful resolution to conflicts and differences.

Your fellow Alaskan,

Molly Tarby

Janet Ogan

From: Lili Misel <lmisel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 7:10 AM
To: Kalyssa Maile; Janet Ogan
Cc: Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Reject guns at UA campuses - SB 174

Dear members of the House Education Committee and House Judiciary Committee,

Please reject SB 172 the Weapons on Campus bill.

The currently gun policy the UA Board of Regents has in place is working.

UA has very little history of gun violence on its campuses and- regardless of how some characterize a campus with guns as safer- there is no indication that would be the case. Instead, what I see happening is more mistakes with guns - accidental shootings, threatening posturing by students against faculty who disagree with the grades they've earned, an inequality in power by those who choose to arm themselves because they feel in some way powerless in their own life and need a gun to provide them power over others.

With this bill you will change the vibrancy of what a college classroom provides students and faculty and will create an inequality on campus between those who choose to be victims - those who feel helpless and disempowered to start packing their gun to class and remove the civility and social norms in classrooms for everyone.

This bill does not serve the interest of residents of Alaska or those who choose to attend Alaska's university.

As a life long resident and someone who cares deeply for the future of the State of Alaska, I implore you to reject SB 174.

Sincerely,

Lillian Anderson-Misel
Fairbanks



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Janet Ogan

From: Jennifer Schell <jen852@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:30 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB 174 – Weapons on Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to you regarding SB 174 -- Weapons on Campus. As an English professor at UAF, I believe that this bill will have a great impact on me and my students. Much of the conversation about this bill has centered around second amendment rights and safety. I don't want to address those issues. Instead, I would like to address financial issues. The last time such a bill was introduced, a great deal was made about how much it would cost to implement. These arguments have not been as prevalent this time around. But they are relevant now more than ever. After three years of budget cuts, UA's financial situation is dire. Programs are being cut, and people are losing jobs. Many of you are avowed fiscal conservatives. I ask you to consider the economic ramifications of this bill. It does not seem to me to be fiscally responsible to pass such a measure in this economic climate.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Schell

Janet Ogan

From: Jacqueline Polasky <jacqueline.polasky@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: SB 174

Dear Elected Official,

I am very sad to see that legislation is working it's way to allow concealed and carried guns on college campuses. **Please do not allow the SB 174 Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass.**

Not only will this increase the cost of keeping students and visitors of all ages safe when on campus, -- an estimated \$1.3 million for added security measures -- but the university's budget is already being drastically reduced.

Allowing guns on campuses undermines the trust of parents sending their children to UA as well as the confidence of the students themselves who would now have an elevated reason to fear any escalation of disagreement or conflict. Guns impair the exchange of diverse opinions in any discussions, which should be a goal of any university. Alaskans deserve to feel safe from the impulse of anyone who might be carrying a gun. I believe that if this legislation passes we will see more gun violence and accidental shootings on our campuses.

More guns do not offset the danger of gun violence, but does make security harder, to protect students from the shootings we have seen on campuses. Let's keep guns where they belong- on hunting grounds.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Your fellow Alaskan,

Jacqueline Polasky

Sent from my iPhone

Janet Ogan

From: Lora Vess <lora.vess@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Cc: Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: SB 174 Testimony

Dear House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Lora Vess; I am a resident of Juneau. I am also an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Alaska Southeast. I am a faculty member strongly opposed to Senate Bill 174. I submit this as a reflection of my personal values and experiences rather than as a representative of UAS, but I know that many faculty, staff, and students share this position.

First, this is an *unfunded mandate* in a time of budgetary shortfalls. According to the *Idaho Statesman*, Idaho is looking at an additional cost of \$3.7 million for required metal detectors, employee training, and additional staff for five campuses after its campus carry law went into effect. *The Houston Chronicle* reported that the Texas law is estimated to [cost up to \\$47 million](#) over six years for the University of Houston and University of Texas systems to update security, build gun lockers, and prepare campus police.

On a personal level, I am not anti-gun ownership or use. I grew up in a small Virginia community and recognize their value for hunting and protection. I attended Virginia Tech for my undergraduate degree. I had friends and former professors who were on campus the day of the shootings and I worried anxiously until news of their safety emerged. I was also a resident advisor while at Virginia Tech and I lived and worked in West Ambler Johnston, in the actual dorm room where two people were killed. I have also been mugged, unarmed, at gunpoint. However, even in light of these experiences, I strongly believe that institutions of higher education are not the appropriate setting to wage a battle over rights to possess firearms. Many of my students are struggling to find their adult identity and develop a sense of self. This does not need to be complicated by adding another potentially *explosive* variable into their transition from adolescence to adulthood.

As a professor, I care deeply about my students and creating and protecting a safe learning environment. On the best of days on campus, my students are engaged, invigorated, and a joy to be around. However, they don't always have the best of days. Some of them are coping with **depression, anxiety, and drug and alcohol problems**. The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that about 4 out of 5 college students drink alcohol, with about half of those engaging in binge drinking. On Thursday, February 18th, I

provided oral testimony during the Senate Education Committee public hearing in opposition to Senate Bill 174. Almost every person providing testimony in opposition to SB 174 at the hearing referenced their grave concerns regarding the emotional and mental health of Alaskan university students and the correlated increase in risks were firearms to become more readily accessible. Some of those supporting the bill expressed the opinion that college students are adults and should be treated as such. However, the brains of adolescents are still developing (and continue to do so through one's early-to-mid twenties). Many adolescents and young adults do not have the **emotional maturity and psychological development** needed for responsible firearm use, especially in high-density settings. Young adults have high rates of depression and anxiety. Certain mental health problems – such as schizophrenia or bi-polar disorder – have early adult-onset and may emerge during the college years. As you are certainly aware, Alaska **suicide rates** are among the highest in the nation with suicide as the second leading cause of death for U.S. college students. Greater access to firearms will likely increase that rate and certainly not diminish it.

At the hearing, several citizens and committee members expressed concern about **sexual assault and rape** on campus. The Committee is right to be concerned: 1 in 5 women (and 1 in 16 men) are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students. However, the vast majority of assaults are not taking place in dark corridors or in parking lots leaving night class. In 90 percent of reported cases, the victim knew her or his attacker. Moreover, 89 percent of assaults occur when the survivor is incapacitated due to alcohol. We have a serious problem with sexual assault and intimate partner violence in Alaska, but our solutions lie with greater education, respect for women, and preventative measures. Arming women on campus will not protect them from sexual violence, especially when it is equally likely that their assailants may be armed.

My concern is that the legislative response with this bill is not reflective of any systematic understanding of the roots of violence on university campuses. Instead, I am concerned that this bill is ideologically driven with a narrow conceptualization of freedom and liberty that has nothing to do the operations and needs of Alaska's universities, or of the safety of the thousands of students, faculty, staff, visitors, and minors who are on Alaskan campuses on any given day.

Supporters create hypothetical scenarios where an armed vigilante emerges as victorious in the face of danger, but they refuse to consider non-storybook endings to that fictional scenario. Even for those experienced gun owners, what experience do they have with mental illness, what knowledge do they have of campus security or the university of environment, what skill do they have in aiming for a gunman in a classroom of chaos or cafeteria full of visiting, confused, and screaming school children? How will they respond to parties fueled with alcohol acting in unpredictable ways with their own guns in hand? This bill presumes that those with concealed carry permits are trained and psychologically able to respond to active shooters in a calm, safe manner. If an active shooter situation arises on campus, I trust the police to respond to the situation. I am greatly concerned that with more firearms on campus, injuries and causality rates could quickly escalate as innocent people are caught in the crossfire.

This bill introduces unknown **dangers to university staff and faculty** (risks, I might add that legislators are protected from). Professors regularly teach difficult and sensitive topics that some students find challenging and are not always able to process in a calm manner. It is the job of a professor to evaluate students and this places them in a vulnerable position. I cannot think of a day where I did not cover a sensitive or controversial topic in

the class. As a sociologist, I teach about and encourage critical thinking related to human behavior and society. In this role, my students learn about sexual harassment and violence. In my classrooms, I regularly “discipline” my students for a range of activities—from talking while others are speaking to playing on their phones. While I am not a therapist, I counsel students on practical educational advice such as developing good study habits and applying to graduate school applications—to more personal matters, such as coping with loss or experiences with sexism.

Certain members of the legislature seems to think there is no reason that universities should have the right to restrict or deny concealed carry on campuses. I find that absolutely baffling given the unique cultural and educational climate of the UA system as described in the breadth of testimony from those of us who work, teach, learn, and visit University of Alaska campuses on a regular basis.

I **strongly** urge the legislature to reject SB 174.

Respectfully,

Lora Vess, PhD

Juneau, Alaska

Janet Ogan

From: Stephen J Rollins <sjrollins@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:39 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: SB174 weapons on campus

Dear Representative Keller

As you may know the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) is co-located in the UAA/APU Consortium Library on the UAA campus. ARLIS is a partnership of state, federal and university organizations and it is governed by the ARLIS Founders Board as outlined in the MOU between the federal agencies and UAA. Yesterday at the Founders Board meeting I asked about the weapons policy for the federal agencies and the agency directors were very clear that weapons are prohibited at their federal facilities including leased space. (18 US Code 930)

Since ARLIS, which includes the Dept of Interior agencies, is in leased space in the Consortium Library, it is my understanding that weapons will continue to be prohibited in the Consortium Library even if SB174 passes and is signed by the governor.

I am therefore wondering about other federal space on the UA campuses. Are there other cases where UA space is rented to federal agencies where federal employees are working? And I am curious to know how SB174 will address this limitation on where weapons can be carried on campus? Is there a conflict between federal and state rights on the issue of concealed weapon carry that should be addressed in SB174?

I think that the House Judiciary Committee should fully consider the implications of this issue and amend SB174 accordingly to clarify where weapons can be carried on the UA campuses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Rollins

Dean, UAA/APU Consortium Library

Janet Ogan

From: Faye Gallant <fsgallant@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: UA Staff Position on SB 174
Attachments: UAF_Staff_Council_Resolution_Opposing_SB174_with_Attachments(2).pdf; Resolution 2016-02 Opposition to SB174 signed w attachments(2).pdf

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for your service to our state, particularly during these challenging times. As you might imagine, SB 174 has received a lot of attention from the employees of the University of Alaska. I'm writing to you as both the Chair of the UA Staff Alliance and the President of the UAF Staff Council. These are the elected representative bodies of the non-unionized staff of the university, at the systemwide and UAF levels. **I believe it is important for you to know that the elected bodies of the students, faculty, and staff of the university have all formally passed resolutions opposing SB 174.**

I have attached the resolutions passed by the UA Staff Alliance (representing all non-unionized staff members of the University of Alaska), and the UAF Staff Council. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Faye Gallant
Business Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
President, UAF Staff Council
Chair, UA Staff Alliance

University of Alaska Fairbanks
[907-474-7515](tel:907-474-7515)
fsgallant@alaska.edu

Janet Ogan

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Greg Stephens <farmersins17@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Alaska: Support Campus Carry legislation, Senate Bill 174

Dear Representative Wes Keller:

As a fellow resident of Alaska, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 174. This important legislation would allow students, faculty and guests to own, possess, carry, transport or store a firearm on areas of the University of Alaska campus where not prohibited by law. A state-funded institution should not be allowed to impose rules more strict than state law, especially rules to limit the right to self-defense. Individuals should not be prevented from exercising their right to self-defense simply because they choose to seek a college education.

Again, as a resident of Alaska, I urge you to support Senate Bill 174.

Sincerely,
Greg Stephens
PO Box 15419
Fritz Creek, AK 99603-6380

Janet Ogan

From: Robert Arundale <rbarundale@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:07 AM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: Comment on SB 174 - Weapons on UA Campuses

Members of the House Education Committee:

You will shortly be considering Senate Bill 174, which proposes to allow guns, rifles, and knives on UA campuses.

The Board of Regents of the University of Alaska is a State board, appointed to use their considered judgment to manage the affairs of the University for the State. They OPPOSE this bill. They know best how to manage the on-going operations of the University. I urge the members of the Education Committee to accept the Board's judgment and OPPOSE SB 174.

Among the many problems and costs associated with this bill, let me share my experience as a faculty member at UAF since the late 1970s. Having guns, rifles, and knives being carried on campus destroys the trust among students, and between students and faculty, that is the very basis of an advanced education. Higher education requires that students continually take the risk of extending themselves in new directions, but they cannot do so if they cannot trust those they must work with closely in order to learn.

Senate Bill 174 threatens the very basis on which a University operates. Please OPPOSE SB 174

Robert B. Arundale

--

Robert B. Arundale, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Janet Ogan

From: NR S <natelielcolumbus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 7:59 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Fwd: Bill 174

I am very disappointed that Bill 174 passed yesterday. This will be a major factor in choosing to enroll any of my four children (one in high school now) in any Alaska University in the future. I feel like I will have to face the increased costs of sending my children out of state so they attend in a state where others are not carrying guns.

I have a JD degree and had recently enrolled in a foreign language (French) program for Fall 2016 at UAA Anchorage. I am considering withdrawing my application.

This is very disheartening and disappointing.

Natolie

19425 Pribilof Loop

Eagle River

Alaska 99577

Janet Ogan

From: Martin Truffer <mtruffer2@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 7:58 AM
To: Kalyssa Maile; Janet Ogan
Cc: Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: guns on campus

Dear chairs of the Judiciary and Education Committees (cc: Adam Wool, District Representative),

next week you will be taking up the issue on SB174 'Guns on Campus'. I strongly urge you to vote against this bill. This is not a 2nd Amendment issue, it is a safety issue. Alaska leads the nation in gun related deaths, mostly because of gun related suicides. We frequently put students into stressful situations. This happens to undergraduates when they receive unsatisfactory grades or graduate students when their advisory committee might find less than satisfactory progress. It is such stressful situations that greatly increase the risk for a harsh reaction; one that often wouldn't happen after time has allowed to calm minds a bit. I shudder at the thought of having guns in the class room and in student advisory committee meetings, as well as at many other university functions.

One might argue that guns already exist on campus illegally, but how does making it legal improve things? It's like legalizing murder, because it's already happening anyway. The idea that an armed student body would reduce the risk of mass shootings is ludicrous. Imagine law officers arriving at a scene with armed attackers and defenders and trying to sort out who the bad guys are.

The motivation for this bill is not clear to me. It appears to be to make a point and push an agenda on the university that virtually nobody wants. I have been a member of the Physics Department at UAF since 2001, and it is very rare to find a topic that the faculty feels so unified about. Why would our employer, the State of Alaska, force a policy on us that the Board of Regents, the President, and the vast majority of the faculty publicly oppose? Just to make a point?

Thank you for reading this and for your service to the public. Please do the right thing.

Martin Truffer
Professor Physics
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Janet Ogan

From: R Moorman <rebmoorman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 3:26 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: NO TO GUNS ON CAMPUS

Dear Rep. Keller:

I'm writing today to urge you to vote NO on the House version of SB174. We do NOT need concealed weapons on the university campuses.

I work at the UAA/APU Consortium Library, which serves students, faculty, and staff of both universities, as well as the general public. Sometimes tempers flare between the constituencies that we serve. Just last week, an incident between a student and a community member escalated quickly, and UPD was called. The situation was handled quickly, but the officer lamented that things could have ended tragically if anyone had a gun.

Please, for the safety of our students, as well as those of us who work here, do all you can to stop this bill from becoming law!

Thanks for listening,

Rebecca Moorman
Anchorage

Janet Ogan

From: Louise & Chris Miller <questmiller@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Chris & Louise Miller
Subject: Please do NOT ALLOW the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass

Dear Representative,

I am very very sad to see that legislation is working it's way to allow concealed and carried guns on college campuses. **Please do not allow the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass.** More guns do not solve our violence/shooting problem in America. We need peaceful ways of dealing with our problems. There are a number of reasons why I am against this legislation:

1) **Accidents:** I have heard countless stories of guns accidentally killing innocent victims and loved ones. Why increase the chance of this happening when the goal is learning about caring for your world and furthering your education? There are countless examples of accidents with guns in the news (children accidentally shooting their sibling, children accidentally shooting their parent, police shooting innocent victims)... the list goes on.

2) **Inappropriateness of arming emotionally charged young adults.**

College students are often emotionally charged, we can not allow and encourage students to bring guns to a place of learning. Emotionally charged people often act out of anger, not out of sensibility; and when armed this will cause regrets on the part of the shooter and all the loved ones of the victim.

3) **Living with Regret.** I know that when I am frightened I do not act sensibly. The likelihood that I would accidentally shoot a friend is much higher than the likelihood that I would thwart an attacker. I feel that this is a likely outcome for the majority of people. This is why I believe bear spray is a much better alternative to guns. With bear spray you have a wide cloud to prevent an unarmed individual from hurting you, you do not cause permanent damage to a misunderstood individual, you are much less likely to cause permanent damage to yourself. Who wants to live with the reality that they killed or significantly hurt another human? I would likely rather die quickly than living the remainder of my life in fear and agony over the actions I took.

I believe that if this legislation passes we will see more gun violence, accidents and sadness in our communities, not less. This legislation will harm Alaskans. Please do not allow this legislation to pass, if you do you will too soon feel regret when accidents and unnecessary harm ensure.

Thank you for your concern, I look forward to seeing you halt this legislation and actively pursuing peaceful resolution to conflicts and differences.

Your fellow Alaskan,
Louise Miller

--

Set your sails in the direction of your dreams

Janet Ogan

From: David Tallmon <dtallmon42@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:16 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Cc: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: reject SB 174

Dear Members of the Alaska House Education Committee-

Although I support the Second Amendment of the US Constitution, I strongly oppose SB 174. It is a solution in search of a problem and possibly the worst piece of legislation to be offered this legislative session. I urge you to focus on our state budget issues and to reject SB 174. It is a waste of time and resources.

Sincerely,

David Tallmon
4453 Mountainside Dr
Juneau, AK 99801

Janet Ogan

From: Julie Rafferty <raffertyjulie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB 174 – Weapons on Campus

Dear Janet,
Could you please distribute this message to all education committee members? Thank you.

Julie

Dear committee members,

As staff of the University of Alaska, parent of a UAA undergraduate, and a continuing student myself, I urge you to vote NO on SB 174 - Weapons on Campus. I do not feel safe in any of those capacities with this legislation. As committee members, I'm sure you face angry and disgruntled constituents. Why aren't concealed weapons allowed in the State House? It is unnecessary and dangerous to impose this on us.

I've been at the receiving end of irate students in a front line campus position and it is not a comfortable place to be. SB 174 aggravates the vast majority of students, faculty and staff campus wide. Additionally, our Board of Regents opposes it. With the \$4.1 billion deficit front and center on what's important for our state right now, please vote this measure down.

Sincerely,

Julie Rafferty
5340 Anderson Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-474-0071

Janet Ogan

From: Amanda Byrd <agbyrd@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 3:49 PM
To: Kalyssa Maile; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez
Cc: Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson
Subject: SB 174

Dear legislators, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Education Committee,

I am writing to you to ask that you please help keep Alaska university campuses gun-free.

I love that Alaska is a wild and free state. I am originally from Australia, an equally wild and free place. I love the independence that is bred in this wonderful land. But, I also love the safety that I feel working in a gun-free workplace. I come from a gun-free society - which incidentally has one of the lowest gun-related death rates in the world.

The thought of colleagues and students coming to my place of work, a sanctuary in my life, a place I love to come to, with loaded guns terrifies me. Reading the news of shootings in other campuses around the country - university, military, and k-12 campuses, I am always relieved to think that I live in Alaska where thankfully that kind of violence does not happen.

Nothing good ever happens when civilians are encouraged by bills and laws to carry a weapon. We have police and other safety officers to protect us. Taking matters into one's own hands is not a solution in our peaceful society. Through personal experience with a relative, I have found that often times when people carry weapons they will find a way to use that weapon. Please do not let that happen at our Alaska campuses.

We live in a beautiful state, a state filled with wonderful, caring people. People who are willing to go to the aid of others without fear. Please let that feeling remain in this state of ours. Please do not allow anyone to carry a concealed gun on UAF. Please do not encourage our young adults, our hardworking professors, our hard working support staff, or our hardworking administration employees to carry guns in our workplace. At any time if someone feels unhappy, they may use that gun against someone else. This is a place I feel safe in.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I believe I am not alone in this concern.

Kind regards,

Amanda Byrd

--

Amanda Byrd

Biomass Coordinator
Alaska Center for Energy and Power
University of Alaska Fairbanks

814 Alumni Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

Ph: (907) 888 2516
Fax: (907) 474 5475
Cell: (907) 978 0305

Janet Ogan

From: John Alden <jnalden@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB 174

Janet and all House members:

Please vote against SB 174 and keep firearms off Campus.

Thank you,

John Alden, UAF Affiliate
1117 Galena St.
Fairbanks, AK
Tel:907-474-0611

Janet Ogan

From: Lauren Wild <lawild@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:53 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB-174

Hello,

I would like to express my opposition to SB 174 in its entirety. Let us put our trust in the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska to decide what is best for our campuses. And let us allow the Board of Regents to govern and protect the safety of students on campus, not our politicians. If the Board would like to adopt this legislation or introduce it, let them make that decision and go to the legislature where it seems they will be welcome. Don't do the Board's job for them.

I am not comfortable with concealed carry on a campus where I am a student.

The introduction of this bill seems to come from nowhere, with no consultation BEFOREHAND to the groups it would affect most - students, professors, and university staff. That is not how government should work. Further, I find Senator Kelly's remarks and opinions on this bill highly offensive, and frankly show a lack of qualification and respect to represent constituents and the people and students of Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Lauren Wild

Janet Ogan

From: Joanna Young <joannayo1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 5:44 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: UAF graduate student strongly opposed to SB174

Dear Representatives,

My name is Joanna Young, and I am a Canadian PhD student attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where I have been working and studying for the past 6 years. I chose UAF because I had heard that the glaciers research group - of which I am a part - is the largest in North America, with a long history of pioneering research and a prestigious publication record.

During my six years in Alaska, I have grown to love Fairbanks and the hardy people who dwell here; so much so, in fact, that I chose to stay here and pursue a PhD after I completed my Masters program in 2013. Nonetheless, I am **strongly opposed to SB 174**. I am a firm believer that increasing the number and presence of guns among civilians, for motivations other than perhaps hunting, is a dangerous path. I come from a country where few civilians carry guns in public places and, as a result, the incidence of shootings is significantly lower. The culture in Canada is one of trust and faith in one's neighbor, rather than one of suspicion and anxiety. It strikes me as a much nicer way to live.

There are many reasons why I believe this bill is flawed and dangerous, as many people have brought up. For example, we would risk endangering instructors and staff, and would increase the potential for accidental shootings - something that is **not** uncommon in Alaska due to poor gun safety, as is exemplified by the recent story of a Fort Wainwright soldier tragically shooting himself to prove to a friend that his gun was unloaded (see the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer article from February, 2016). We all know that simply offering training is not enough to ensure safe gun practices. And, it is clearly especially unsafe to bring guns into an environment where one's focus is on anything other than gun safety (i.e. learning, research, and service).

But I also wanted to point out that, from the perspective of the international community, UAF will be a much less desirable place to choose to study, work and live. I would have seriously reconsidered my choice to come to UAF if a law allowing concealed carry on campus had existed six years ago.

Thank you for considering the perspective of an international resident who loves the lifestyle of freedom we have in Fairbanks, but fears the kind of nervous and paranoid environment a bill like this would create at UAF. **Please acknowledge the majority voice of those who would actually be affected by this bill by opposing SB 174.**

Thank you for serving.
Sincerely,
-Joanna Young

Janet Ogan

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Eric Nyholm <enyholm@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:34 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Alaska: Support Campus Carry legislation, Senate Bill 174

Dear Representative Wes Keller:

As a fellow resident of Alaska, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 174. This important legislation would allow students, faculty and guests to own, possess, carry, transport or store a firearm on areas of the University of Alaska campus where not prohibited by law. A state-funded institution should not be allowed to impose rules more strict than state law, especially rules to limit the right to self-defense. Individuals should not be prevented from exercising their right to self-defense simply because they choose to seek a college education.

Again, as a resident of Alaska, I urge you to support Senate Bill 174.

Sincerely,
Eric Nyholm
200 W 23rd Ave
Anchorage, AK 99503-2016

Janet Ogan

From: jtomaro@acsalaska.net
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses

Dear Representative,

I am very very sad to see that legislation is working it's way to allow concealed and carried guns on college campuses. Please do not allow the Conceal and Carry on UA Campuses measure to pass. More guns do not solve our violence/shooting problem in America. We need peaceful ways of dealing with our problems. There are a number of reasons why I am against this legislation:

1) Accidents: I have heard countless stories of guns accidentally killing innocent victims and loved ones. Why increase the chance of this happening when the goal is learning about caring for your world and furthering your education? There are countless examples of accidents with guns in the news (children accidentally shooting their sibling, children accidentally shooting their parent, police shooting innocent victims)... the list goes on.

2) Inappropriateness of arming emotionally charged young adults. College students are often emotionally charged, we can not allow and encourage students to bring guns to a place of learning. Emotionally charged people often act out of anger, not out of sensibility; and when armed this will cause regrets on the part of the shooter and all the loved ones of the victim.

3) Living with Regret. I know that when I am frightened I do not act sensibly. The likelihood that I would accidentally shoot a friend is much higher than the likelihood that I would thwart an attacker. I feel that this is a likely outcome for the majority of people. This is why I believe bear spray is a much better alternative to guns. With bear spray you have a wide cloud to prevent an unarmed individual from hurting you, you do not cause permanent damage to a misunderstood individual, you are much less likely to cause permanent damage to yourself. Who wants to live with the reality that they killed or significantly hurt another human? I would likely rather die quickly than living the remainder of my life in fear and agony over the actions I took.

I believe that if this legislation passes we will see more gun violence, accidents and sadness in our communities, not less. This legislation will harm Alaskans. Please do not allow this legislation to pass, if you do you will too soon feel regret when accidents and unnecessary harm ensure.

Thank you for your concern, I look forward to seeing you halt this legislation and actively pursuing peaceful resolution to conflicts and differences.

Your fellow Alaskan,
Barbara Bechtold
John Tomaro

Janet Ogan

From: Pam Groves <pgroves@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Cc: Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: Guns on Campus

Dear Ms. Ogan,

I hope the House Education will wisely choose to table SB 174 which promotes concealed weapons on UA campuses. The testimony has been clear the members of the UA campuses do not want this bill. We feel it will make life on campuses more dangerous rather than safer. I wish the legislature would focus on budget issues and ignore this.

Sincerely,
Pam Groves

Janet Ogan

From: Tim "Goldie" Bauer <tbauer@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: Guns on Campus

If the Legislature believes that guns on campus is such a good idea, they should first allow guns in the Capital.

Tim Bauer
Fairbanks

Janet Ogan

From: R Moorman <rebmoorman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: NO TO GUNS ON CAMPUS

Dear Rep. Keller:

I'm writing today to urge you to vote NO on the House version of SB174. We do NOT need concealed weapons on the university campuses.

I work at the UAA/APU Consortium Library, which serves students, faculty, and staff of both universities, as well as the general public. Sometimes tempers flare between the constituencies that we serve. Just last week, an incident between a student and a community member escalated quickly, and UPD was called. The situation was handled quickly, but the officer lamented that things could have ended tragically if anyone had a gun.

Please, for the safety of our students, as well as those of us who work here, do all you can to stop this bill from becoming law!

Thanks for listening,

Rebecca Moorman
Anchorage

Janet Ogan

From: Merry Ellefson / Wayne Carnes <merrywayne@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 12:33 PM
To: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: Please SAY NO to concealed weapons on campus

Representatives,

I'm a High School coach (xc, nordic, Team Alaska Snowshoe), a teaching artist in the schools and a parent.

I'm angered to watch legislation that allows concealed and carried weapons moving it's way out of the Senate. Actually, I'm appalled at the short-sightedness of the bill and its negative and harmful impact on educators, students, and educational institutions. I'm enraged at the associated costs, especially as research and essential educational opportunities are CUT from the UA budget.

Better yet, **like my 15-year old son Arne says:** The people who bring guns are also the ones who will use them, mom. I don't want to go to college in Alaska anymore.

Sincerely,

Merry Ellefson
8170 North Douglas
Juneau, AK 99801

Janet Ogan

From: Kat MM <napaaqtuk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:40 AM
To: Janet Ogan
Subject: SB 174

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to you as an Inupiaq raised in Kotzebue, and as a new professor at UAA. I strongly oppose SB 174.

I grew up in a family that hunts for subsistence, so I fully support of the right of people to use guns to hunt. However, my family has also felt the heartbreak and tragedy that is the end result of gun violence. One family member shot a friend during a drunken fight over a card game; another friend nearly lost her toddler when he found her gun and fired it in the house; and tragically, my cousin was killed by an ex-girlfriend when they got into a heated argument when he was attempting to move out of their shared home.

These tragic gun-related events can happen at any time, but are more likely to occur when stakes are high (consider the stress of studying for classes that may determine which jobs you are able to get in the future), alcohol is present (as is the case on campuses in which large numbers of young people are gathered), and emotions run rampant (imagine the frustration that follows when a student receives a failing grade in a class he/she needs to enter into a professional program or major).

I teach a large, 4 credit introductory course that is required for students to be able to enter into the nursing program. Each time they take this 4 credit course, in-state students pay almost \$900. If they don't do well, they may have to take the course a second or third time to get a passing grade. As you can imagine, students can get very emotional when they don't do well in the class. While I have not encountered this yet because I just started teaching the course, other teachers for this course have been physically intimidated by students to receive a flunking grade. Given that professors have been killed by students in the past, I'm terrified by what will happen when a stressed, emotional student receives a failing grade in my course, especially when that student has a gun in their possession in the classroom.

Please please please, for the sake of me, for the sake of my 2 young kids, for the sake of the Alaskans and Alaskan Native students that I hope to mentor in the future, for the sake of my husband who would have to care for my kids on his own if a student decided to shoot me over a grade, for the sake of my parents who have already lost one child, do not vote in favor of, or argue for the passage of, SB 174.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Dr. Kat Napaaqtuk Milligan-Myhre
napaaqtuk@gmail.com

Janet Ogan

From: Lue and Suzan Hahn <suluhahn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 3:08 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: SB 174

Representative Wes Keller,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on SB 174.

The Senate has already passed SB174, a bill that would allow guns on campus. The university is and should be a place of learning. There is no underlying reason for anyone to carry a firearm on campus. I have been on campus for more than 30 years and have never believed it appropriate or necessary to carry a weapon. It is not possible to have frank and open conversations on critical issues when one person is in an obvious position of power, carrying a gun. I have known of two shootings on UA campuses and in both cases neither event would have been prevented by another person carrying a gun.

When I see someone carrying a weapon in public, it does not make me feel safer. Quite the opposite! I have no idea whether the person "packing" is an off-duty policeman, a drug dealer, or someone with mental health issues or holding a grudge. If anyone is allowed to carry weapons on campus, how will Campus Police quickly determine who is a potential threat. It would be like searching for a needle in a haystack. More campus police will be necessary and costs will skyrocket.

In fact, there is evidence that other states (Idaho, Texas, and Arizona) have passed similar legislation allowing guns on campus and the costs of increased security and insurance has been: \$3.7 million for the first year in Idaho, \$59 million over six years for Texas, and \$13.1 million in start-up expenses with an additional \$3.1 million in annual operating costs for Arizona.

Every week in the news we learn of another shooting on a campus or other public area. How will introducing more guns make it safer?

Consider this... We all know the budget looks bad for the state and especially for the university. Ask yourself if you are willing to allow guns on campus and then tell people they no longer have a job. Would you want to be the university employee that has to lay someone off when they may be armed? Would you feel safe if you were the professor who had to assign a failing grade? Grades are likely to be inflated, devaluing your education. I wouldn't feel safe, would you?

SB 174 is a dangerous choice on many levels. It will create an unsafe environment, increased costs for everyone, and a devalued education. It is a bad idea.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 174.

Sincerely,

Suzan Hahn

1908 Jack Street

Fairbanks, Alaska

Email: suluhahn@gmail.com

Phone: 907-456-8676

Janet Ogan

From: Carl Schaefer <carl.schaefer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 5:25 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill
Cc: Janet Ogan; Kalyssa Maile
Subject: SB174

I am writing you today to strongly, **STRONGLY**, encourage you to oppose SB174.

Why on earth do we need to legalize firearms in any school? This is plainly idiotic and born simply from fear. Police agencies are opposed to this! The more guns that are being carried in schools and the University will increase the chances of accidents. We already have the highest gun related deaths per capita in the nation. Why increase the risk?

Don't have blood on your hands. Don't support or vote for this bill.

Sincerely,
Carl Schaefer
2094 Pine Cone Rd
Fairbanks AK

Janet Ogan

From: kevin maier <kevinkmaier@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Sam Kito; Kalyssa Maile
Subject: Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 174

Dear Member of the House Judiciary Committee,

I'm submitting an editorial I published in the ADN in March as formal written testimony in opposition SB 174.

As I note in the editorial, I feel strongly that this bill represents an awful policy move, motivated by an ideology that most in Alaska don't share.

As I don't note directly in the editorial, I also work at the University of Alaska Southeast, and have spent the last 24 years in higher education. Beyond the overt ideological posturing inherent to the bill, I can see no rational reason that bill should be moved. I urge you to stand up to this posturing the stop this bill now.

Thanks for your consideration,

Kevin

<http://www.adn.com/article/20160310/guns-are-good-tools-not-university-alaska-campuses>

As an avid hunter, a fishing guide who has carried a firearm for bear protection, a father of two boys who enjoy shooting sports, and owner of several guns, I'm strongly opposed to Senator Pete Kelley's (R-Fairbanks) ill-advised efforts to lift the firearm ban on University of Alaska campuses (Senate Bill 174, "An Act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska.").

Like many Alaskans, I find as many opportunities to get outside as I can; more often than not I find an excuse to pack my hunting license and a firearm appropriate to taking the game in season. From ptarmigan to caribou and geese to moose, I love to hunt, and I take pride in feeding my family with wild protein.

As part of the family tradition, my eight year old earned his first rifle this winter, a gift from his grandfather of a beautiful CZ single-shot youth-model .22lr. I don't think you'll be surprised to learn that he earned it by demonstrating that he had fully assimilated safe firearm handling rules. To be sure, he already has a deep respect for his hunting tools. As he will earnestly explain to you, when we are not afield or at the range, all guns are kept unloaded, under lock and key, hidden from view. Safe firearm handling is a first principle of the hunter safety curriculum, and a first principle in our house. When we heard that the Alaska Senate was considering a bill that would encourage students to carry firearms, my son was deeply confused. Why, he asked, would you need a gun at school?

It's an important question.

As so often happens when we listen to the news on the radio, I patiently explained as best as I could. I began by suggesting that sometimes people feel the need to carry guns for protection, sort of like when we are fishing remote

salmon streams in the summer, and worry that brown bears might be interested in pushing us out of our fishing spots. He quickly noted that we don't really do that anymore, as we've transitioned from 12-gauges to pepper spray when we fish in brown bear country. Indeed, convinced by the peer review literature on the efficacy of pepper spray, I've increasingly been carrying canisters of bear spray instead of my trusty Mossberg 500. In fact, this past summer while guiding daily fly-out fly fishing trips on remote streams in Southeast Alaska, I can count on one hand the times I packed a firearm.

It is my firm conviction that guns are tools for hunting. In my family, hunting is an important tradition, and I've already laid the groundwork to pass this heritage down to my two children. Passing unnecessary legislation that will mobilize the anti-gun lobby—especially when we should be addressing the very significant economic crisis in our state—will only serve to hinder my efforts to pass on this tradition. Furthermore, according to the Legislative fiscal note, the bill will require a minimum of \$1.3 million in expenditures in 2017 (likely much, much more going forward), most of it earmarked for outside consultants. In the current fiscal environment, this is money that would be much better spent educating future Alaskan game managers and biologists.

My hope is that the Senate does the right thing and kills this bill. Irrespective of the concessions and amendments negotiated with the University's legal team, almost nobody who actually spends time on a UA campus thinks it is a good idea to allow guns, as the public testimony from faculty and students has clearly shown. My hunch is that the majority of the hunters in the state will similarly find the bill's ideological posturing as confounding as my eight-year old son finds it. In short, from my perspective as hunter, gun owner, father, and, most importantly, voter, the Senate should drop this bill and do the job we elected them to do: insuring a bright future for our state.