



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

Many Traditions One Alaska

February 16, 2016

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

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

Dear Senators McGuire and Dunleavy:

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

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

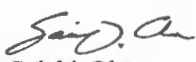
This isn't about being pro or anti guns. UA allows weapons on campus in a reasonable way, such as in secure storage, at special events and in locked cars. SB 174 creates a situation where UA is responsible for conduct in shared student housing but is unable to do what makes sense.


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


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

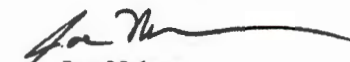
The University of Alaska campuses are places of education and training that have been specifically set aside for debate; the free exchange of ideas, exploration and discovery among young people making the transition to adulthood. Weapons on campus don't enhance that learning and growth experience; they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

Sincerely,


Saichi Oba
UA
Associate VP
Student & Enrollment


Dr. Bruce Schultz
UAA
Vice Chancellor
Student Affairs


Dr. Michael Sfraga
UAF
Vice Chancellor
University & Student
Advancement


Joe Nelson
UAS
Vice Chancellor
Enrollment Mgmt. &
Student Affairs

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

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

Gayle Keller

From: Chris M Turletes <cmturletes@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Pete Kelly; Senator.Lesie.Maguire@akeg.gov
Subject: SB 174 testimony

Greetings My Name is Chris Turletes, I live in southwest Anchorage, I am a retired Army officer and now work at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I am a UAA alum as is one of my daughters. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 174.

SB 174 would preclude the Board of Regents and university from effectively managing student and employee conflicts and campus safety issues where concealed weapons are involved. As a university employee who spends a lot of time on campus for both work and recreation, I don't understand the need to allow weapons or concealed carry weapons on campus. Part of our goal is to prepare our students to be good citizens; the campus is a place where freedom of speech and exploration of ideas is supposed to occur.

An armed campus stymies open and free dialogues, debates and arguments, personal engagements.

The policy in place now allows those that carry weapons to leave them in their vehicles.

As a part of the Campus Emergency Response team I think concealed carry compounds any event involving guns on campus. Who's the friendly, who's the hostile. You just don't know.

Why carry a weapon on campus in the library at the gym or the Arena or at the coffee shop or bookstore or classroom? Personal protection? Self Confidence? Intimidation? I can't think of a good reason.

I think SB 147 is a major distraction to the job at hand which should be to hammer out a budget and to orient the state to be able to create new revenues and reestablish an environment that makes us feel comfortable living, working and playing in the state; without having to wear a gun.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Chris Turletes

UAA AVC Facilities and Campus Services

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

Dear Senator,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colin Osterhout
Juneau, AK

Gayle Keller

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

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

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

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

Diane Erickson

Joseph Byrnes

From: Ellen Naughter Andrews <ellen_naughter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 11:47
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Please do not pass SB174

Dear Senator Kelly, Senator McGuire, Senator Stoltze, Senator Dunleavy and Senator Giessel,

I am completely surprised that SB 174 is being proposed and am adamantly opposed to it. Please do not pass this bill. As an Alaskan resident, gun owner, hunter and wild game connoisseur, there is no intellectual argument for the need of guns on a University campus. Additionally, with the current landscape of gun violence, I find it offensive that this bill has progressed to the senate with support. Where is the logic? What needs do gun owners have that require their possession of firearms while at University?

Currently, I am a graduate student and utilize the UAS campus regularly for my studies. I have taken pause in the last week every time I approach the library. I have thought about the widespread, gruesome incidents of gun violence that are occurring regularly down south and then think about my small children. It is unfair that I have to worry about my safety while pursuing a graduate degree (or any academic degree). It is unfair that all people in America are fearing for their lives as a result of unpredictable gun violence. This bill is audaciously tempting fate by blatantly disregarding the obvious truths that are a part of the current American experience. Why in God's name would you support something that could create a loophole for devastation?

I would be happy to speak to this issue at length. I feel strongly and I will be diligent in my pursuit to squash this and any other bill that supports loose gun regulations.

Thank you for the great work that you do for our State. Please remember that this work is on behalf of constituents such as myself.

Ellen Andrews
1133 Glacier Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-8184

Joseph Byrnes

From: Dr. Gerhard Kramm <gerhardkramm46@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 13:38
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Cc: Dianne Blumer; Brandon Brefczynski; Bethany Marcum; Jane Conway
Subject: SB 174 - "An Act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska."
Attachments: ias.pdf

Dear Senator Kelly,

as a retired faculty member of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I wonder what the advantage of this bill SB 174 should be. I have taught classes in numerous fields of atmospheric sciences at various universities in Germany, Spain, and even at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I think I was always an engaged instructor (see, e.g., evaluation of instruction by students, IAS). In my opinion, carrying concealed weapons on a university campus is rather absurd.

I am a native of Cologne, Germany, but I became a US citizen in 2007. During my military service with the armed forces of West Germany at the climax of the Cold War, I was trained with various kind of firearms, from pistols to machine guns. This means that I am familiar with firearms. Also, I do not challenge the 2nd amendment of our Constitution.

However, as an engaged instructor, I had had no time to pay attention whether someone who is participating in the course is bearing a firearm. My sole interested was to teach the students in the best manner. This can only be performed without any trace of fear. Therefore, I wonder why it should be permitted to bear firearms, for instance, in classrooms, laboratories, or libraries at the University of Alaska. In such a case, faculty members of the University of Alaska would not be protected against possible assaults by crazy students ore staff members. Thus, I wonder whether you and the co-sponsors of this bill hate this university and its faculty members. If not, then it is indispensable to protect these faculty members if it will be permitted to carry concealed weapons on campus. Consequently, the University of Alaska has to ask for many additional security officers for doing its duty.

The fiscal crisis of the University of Alaska is well known. To hire additional security officers, as indispensable, would only generate more the fiscal problems. I think that your initiative is only counterproductive.

Sincerely yours

Gerhard Kramm

Dr. rer. nat. Gerhard Kramm
Research Associate Professor of Meteorology (ret.)
Fairbanks, Alaska, USA
e-mail: gerhardkramm46@gmail.com
URL: <http://engineeringmeteorologyconsulting.com/>

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Gayle Keller

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

Dear Honorable Senator Pete Kelly,

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

I urge you to reconsider your support of SB174.

Sincerely,

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

Joseph Byrnes

From: Terence Reilly <tjreilly@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:54
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Pete Kelly
Cc: Terence Reilly
Subject: SB-174

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senators McGuire and Kelly,

My name is Terry Reilly and I'm a professor at UAF, where I have been teaching in the English department since 1996. I have been a teacher since 1975 (that's 41 years), both in Alaska and Florida. I have taught every level of student from terminally ill pre-kindergarteners to PhD students, and I've won teaching awards wherever I've taught.

I'm writing with some concerns about the passage of SB-174, especially with regard to allowing guns in classrooms. One of the courses I regularly teach is English 200X, a survey of World Literature, and I teach selections from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. When I teach literature from the Middle East, sometimes the discussions can become quite fiesty and animated, which I usually count as a good thing in an educational environment. It's good for students to be able to argue reasonably and effectively and to formulate and articulate complex ideas. My classes are regularly populated by soldiers and dependents from Eielson and Fort Wainwright, and some of the soldiers who were grads from West Point and the Air Force Academy have used my syllabus when they return to their service academies to teach.

Since 2003 or so, some problems have occasionally cropped up in class with servicemen who have recently returned from tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Some of these soldiers are having a hard time readjusting to life in the US after experiencing some of the things they have overseas. Some of these soldiers have been diagnosed as PTSD; other have not. Since 2003, I have occasionally had to dismiss my class because of the behavior of some of these soldiers. None of it has been serious--just yelling at other students or me, kicking over trash cans, slamming doors, or just talking endlessly about irrelevant topics--but some of these folks are really having some mental problems, and they aren't getting much treatment for them.

These soldiers are not allowed to carry weapons on base, but if SB-174 passes, they will be able to carry weapons in my classroom, and that's not good at all, either for me or the other students.

My brother just returned from 3 1/2 years in Afghanistan where he was a civilian contractor, and when I told him about this situation, he couldn't believe it. He said that there's no way those people should be allowed to handle guns anywhere, let alone a college classroom, and he pointed out the murder rate in Fort Collins Colorado since returning soldiers have been going there for debriefing.

One of my good friends and colleagues in Florida, Barry Grunow, was shot and killed the last day of middle school in 1990. He was a very popular teacher and the student who shot him was an honors student. The last day of school, the student who lived near the school brought some water balloons to the school and started throwing them. Barry told the kid to go home and start his summer vacation early. The kid walked home, got his father's (licensed) gun, came back to school, walked in the classroom, shot Grunow dead and then walked back home. Some people say that if Grunow had had a gun, he could have defended himself, but it doesn't happen that way--it's not the movies and it happens very quickly--randomly and without warning.

Anyway, I'm rather proud of what I've accomplished in my almost 20 years at UAF, especially bringing some of my former students back to Alaska as doctors, educators, legislators, engineers, tribal leaders, etc. If SB-174

passes and guns are allowed in my classrooms, I might be considering retirement a few years earlier than I anticipated.

--

Terry Reilly
Professor of English
University of Alaska Fairbanks



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

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

TO: Jim Johnsen
President, University of Alaska

VIA: Faye Gallant
Chair, Staff Alliance

CC: Richard Caulfield
Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast

Maren Haavig
President, Faculty Senate/Alliance

DATE: February 16, 2016

RE: Oppose Senate Bill 174 Guns on Campus

Whereas:

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

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

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

Be It Resolved That:

UAS Staff Council opposes Senate Bill 174 Guns on Campus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kolene James', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kolene' and last name 'James' clearly legible.

Kolene James
President, UAS Staff Council

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

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



USUAS-JC

University of Alaska Southeast

United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast

Priority Reading
Resolution - 1516 -10

Sponsored By: President Callie Conerton

Date of Introduction: February 16th, 2016

Purpose: To oppose SB 174 Guns on Campus

Whereas:

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

Whereas:

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

Whereas:

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

Whereas:

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

Whereas:

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

Whereas:

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

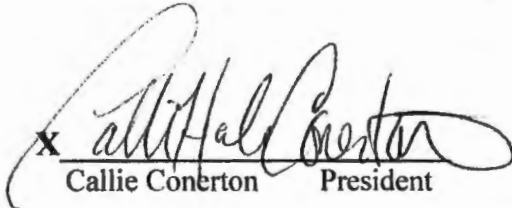
Be It Resolved That:

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

Be it Further Resolved That:

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

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

x 
Callie Conerton President

Joseph Byrnes

From: Tara M Smith <tmsmith@uaa.alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:55
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: UAA Faculty Senate Motions
Attachments: USUAA Resolution #16-18 - Opposing SB174.pdf

Dear Senator Kelly,

Thank you for your service to our state. I write to you on behalf of the University of Alaska Anchorage Faculty Senate, the university-wide, representative governance body for faculty at UAA. I wanted to share with you two motions we passed on March 4, 2016. The first refers to a motion passed by the Union of Students of UAA, which I have attached for your convenience.

First: The UAA Faculty Senate expresses solidarity with USUAA's Resolution 16-18 on SB-174.

Second: The UAA Faculty Senate believes that the current Board of Regents policy relating to weapons on campus is in the best interest of students and the university community. We therefore firmly oppose Senate Bill 174.

We appreciate your time and consideration of the faculty whose working conditions will be impacted by the proposed legislation before you. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information that may be of assistance to you in your deliberations. We recognize your task is always arduous, and this year particularly so.

Best Regards,

t

Tara Smith, M.Ed.

President, UAA Faculty Senate

Professor of ESL

University of Alaska Anchorage

907-786-6873

Joseph Byrnes

From: Toby Widdicombe <twiddicombe@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 13:31
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Please Vote against SB 174

Dear Senators,

Please vote against SB 174 (the proposed weapons on campus legislation). Faculty and students do not want this bill. Why would the legislature force this idea on us when the legislature is not itself prepared to allowed weapons in its own buildings, chambers, and discussions? Why? Why do so when the Second Amendment is not under any sort of threat?

This bill will damage the relations between faculty and students and students and students. Pretty much everyone on campus. The student government has made a statement against this bill. The faculty senate has made a statement against this bill. The faculty union has said it does not want this bill. The prior University President was against the bill.

In addition, this bill will likely impinge on the first amendment free speech rights of members of our campus community. How likely is that everyone will continue to speak up and have controversial discussions and debates on campus, which are a vital part of a good educational experience, if there is the threat of weapons being involved.

SB 174 is unnecessary legislation, particularly in a time of great budget crisis. It's a classic example of a solution to a problem that doesn't exist, a solution which will just create further problems. If SB 174 passes there will be one or more serious "shooter on campus" incidents on UA campuses in the coming years. *You know that and I know that.* And the legislature will wring its hands and say: "How did this happen!" Well, it will have happened because of your actions if you pass this bill. So, don't. Please don't.

Instead, focus on the biggest, the *only* issue: creating a sustainable future for the Alaskan economy. Why are we focusing on weapons when our state's economy is in an iron lung and our university is in triage? Why would the legislature add upwards of \$1 million dollars per year if not more once the insurance companies get involved to the university's costs?

Why is the legislature proposing to create a hostile and threatening work and learning environment for those of us working at the university when the legislature itself is unwilling to allow weapons into its halls and discussions.

Leave the weapons at home or in the cars where they belong, rather than in our buildings and classrooms. Please vote against SB 174.

Richard Toby Widdicombe