



Tau Kappa Epsilon

Phi-Alpha Chapter
University of Alaska, Anchorage

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

MEMORANDUM FOR: Senator Kelly AND Alaska State Legislature

SUBJECT: Student Support for Senate Bill 174

Resolution to Support Senate Bill 174

Senate Bill 174 ensures that the rights guaranteed under the Alaska Constitution are not surrendered on campuses throughout the University of Alaska by preventing the Board of Regents from restricting weapons on campus in a manner inconsistent with the constitutional phrasing stating "The individual right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed by the State or a political subdivision of the State." The Phi-Alpha Chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity believes that the current policy of the Board of Regents is not only in clear violation of the Alaska Constitution, but places unnecessary risk on the students through the removal of their constitutional rights.

The Board of Regent's policy against weapons has stood since 1995 for a number reasons, especially potential penalties as severe as expulsion from the university. With the potential for the loss of academic participation at the largest institution of higher learning in the state of Alaska for exercising a constitutionally protected right, students who do choose to exercise this right are left with only the options of forgoing their right until they graduate or securing their weapon in a vehicle prone to break-in in an environment that refuses to accept liability for the same.

Unnecessary risk to students can be argued by both the supporters and opponents of this bill, with opponents claiming that it will increase suicides and violence on campus, while in actuality the policy of the Board of Regents robs students of the ability to protect themselves from the violence that already exists. Evidence from 171 college campuses ranging from Utah and Colorado to Texas and Virginia has proven that over 1,500 semesters of courses being conducted without students' rights being infringed, gun violence and suicides have not increased. Furthermore, a vast majority of peer reviewed evidence indicates that there is no evidence indicating that licensed concealed carry increases violent crimes.

In the interest of preserving the rights guaranteed to Alaskan citizens under our constitution, we support Senate Bill 174 and encourage others to do the same.

Adopted by unanimous consent 28 February 2016.

Phillip Harding
Rocky Mountain/Western Regional Director
Students for Concealed Carry
concealedcampus.org

5201 W 11th St Apt 1202
Greeley, CO 80634
Cell: 410.924.2813
Email: phillip.harding@concealedcampus.org

February 25, 2016

Senator Pete Kelly
State Capitol Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am writing to express my gratitude (and to extend my support) for the recently drafted SB 174, the passage of which would compel the University of Alaska to comply with Alaska state law regarding the constitutionally-protected right of citizens to keep and bear arms. It is my earnest desire, as well as that of the tens of thousands of members that comprise Students for Concealed Carry, to see the nationwide adoption of legal provisions that protect the ability of ordinary citizens to defend themselves in any circumstances in which their lives may be threatened. It is an unfortunate fact that university campuses have historically been—and are in principle—vulnerable to attack by malicious individuals, the collective havoc wrought by such heinous crimes being utterly inestimable.

While no law can make certain the safety of citizens in every circumstance, the purpose of the law is not realize the ideal, but rather, to enact provisions codifying the just and prudent exercise of those rights guaranteed, first by our Creator, and second by our Constitution; and it is my firm opinion that SB 174 is indeed both a prudent and a morally necessary addition to Alaskan law. This becomes especially apparent with not only the prevalence of ‘mass shootings’, but also with the threat of sexual assault for some. Students like Amanda Collins at the University of Nevada - Reno and Taylor Woolrich at Dartmouth took **every** preventative measure they could: Amanda with martial arts and persistent requests to allow lawful concealed carry on her campus, and Taylor with multiple contact and restraining orders along with her own persistent requests for Dartmouth to provide for her security- or allow her to keep and bear a firearm for her own defense from her convicted stalker. Allowing these students, the future leaders of our nation, to live and learn under the same--or arguably greater--threat of violence without affording them the self-defense rights they enjoy off-campus is no solution to this very real problem.

Research from the Crime Prevention Research Center suggests that bills like SB 174 are consistent with the wide body of positive evidence that average citizens can be trusted to use their firearms responsibly in self-defense scenarios. It is, in addition, consistent with the negative evidence; that is, the fact that of the 206 college campuses that allow students and faculty to carry concealed weapons, there has not been any discernible increase in incidents of violence as a result of such provisions. There are no empirical data that support the prohibition of the concealed carrying of firearms on university campuses. Such prohibitions as currently being exercised by the University of Alaska Board of Regents, being devoid of an adequate foundation in the available relevant data, are especially egregious in light of Alaskan's legal right to carry concealed firearms statewide with impunity.

On behalf of my fellow Americans in the state of Alaska, I emphatically encourage the passage of SB 174. While its passage may be considered by some to be a small victory, if the bill has the privilege of effecting the preservation of even a single innocent life, it will have proven itself invaluable. I thank you for your efforts and for your time.

Sincerely,

Phillip C. Harding IV
Rocky Mountain/Western Regional Director,
Students for Concealed Carry

Joseph Byrnes

From: Kelsi Pulczinski <kpulczinski@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 09:36
To: Joseph Byrnes
Subject: Supporting SB174

RE: SB174

FROM: Kelsi Pulczinski 2/11/2016

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to voice my strong support of SB174.

I am a full time student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage campus, and every time I step foot on campus, I see signs adorning doorways that declare my public school a gun-free zone. When I see these signs, I know that I am not as safe as I could be. Criminals do not target areas where their victims are likely to be able to defend themselves. The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun, is a good guy with a gun. I have never heard of law enforcement arriving to the scene of an active shooter unarmed. And, when the police are minutes away, seconds count.

Pardon the clichés and buzz words, but the statistics of the situation back them up. Most real-world shootouts last only three to ten seconds. It is unlikely that a shootout between an armed citizen and an assailant would last more than a few seconds. Further, how could 10 seconds of two people shooting at each other be worse than ten minutes of an assailant walking up to unarmed, defenseless victims and shooting them in the head at pointblank range (as occurred in the Virginia Tech massacre)?

Additionally, the likelihood of accidental discharge is incredibly miniscule. In the last 20 years, there has been 150 college campuses that have allowed concealed carry. Roughly, a total of over 1500 combined semesters. In all of that time there has only been 3 accidental discharges. Two of these were the result of an imbecile carrying their weapon in their pocket, rather than a holster (both incidents resulted in minor injuries consistent with being shot in the leg due to their own idiocy). The third, was the result of a faculty member showing off a gun she was not yet familiar with, and resulted in minor abrasions to her hand.

Not a single campus that allows concealed carry has seen a single act of gun violence (including threats) or a single resulting suicide attempt.

The University of Alaska Board of Regents has overstepped their constitutional authority in their regulation of firearms on University campuses. Article I, Sec. 19 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska says that the state, nor any political subdivision of the state, may abridge an individual's right to keep and bear arms. The BOR is in its very nature, a political subdivision of the state. As such, the BOR has **no constitutional authority** to outright prohibit the carrying of arms on university property.

As a young woman, I have little to no recourse against a potential assailant due to this BOR policy. I am unable to defend myself. There are stories of women who were on their campus, just meters away from their University Police office, who were not packing their weapon due to the university policy, that were violently

raped and assaulted. This is terrifying to me...due to an arbitrary and unconstitutional law, I am unable to protect myself from would-be attackers.

This bill would prevent the University of Alaska Board of Regents from infringing on my God-given right to defend myself. This unconstitutional action needs to be reversed.

Respectfully,

Kelsi Pulczinski

Dear Alaska State Legislature,

22 February 2016

I am contacting you today in support of SB 174. My desire to express my support comes from my own personal experience while attending Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA) where I used a pistol to repel possible violence and intrusion into my off-campus university managed apartment (October 2013). This action deterred the suspect from potentially becoming violent with my roommate, which is very possible as the suspect ended up being a six-time felon. This altercation drove home for me the fact that the proper use of a firearm could actually deter violence or at least ensure a better outcome for the victim.

Firearms on college campuses have always been a contested topic, but it should be noted that the responsible and legal use of firearms rarely leads to undesirable outcomes. Unarmed victims always lead to undesirable outcomes and allow for those looking to prey upon the defenseless in a more powerful position. College campuses are often a collection point for a broad cross-section of the population. Including a large representation from more vulnerable young adults and allowing them to educate themselves in how to protect themselves and giving them the means to do so is the right thing to do. In closing it only makes sense to me to expand Alaska's concealed carry to most places on campuses within the UA system to allow for responsible people to deter crime, as help is never really just a call away.

Best regards,

Daniel McIntosh
Cordova, AK

Joseph Byrnes

From: Lance Roberts <roberts.lance@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 22:24
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Cc: Joseph Byrnes
Subject: SB174 UA carry

To the Legislature:

I would ask for your support of SB174 to allow students of the University of Alaska their uninfringed right to bear arms. I received three degrees from UAF in the period from 1982 to 2012, and was always amazed that the students there were not allowed to conceal carry so as to be able to protect themselves.

With the increase in incidents on school and university properties all over the U.S, and the preponderance of those happening in gun-free zones, it only makes sense to allow students the right to carry. They will be able to stop a shooter sooner than any campus police could arrive to do, and by declaring that the campuses aren't gun-free zones a message will be sent to those thinking about such acts.

The only specific I would mention in the bill is the vague reference to the Regents being able to regulate open-carried knives. Do we really want them stopping anyone from wearing a swiss-army knife or leatherman? I think the bill would work just as fine not allowing the regulation of knives, or at least protecting the common place ones.

Thanks,

Lance Roberts
Fairbanks, AK

To: Whom it may concern

From: James Wall

Date: 02/28/2016

Re: Support for SB 174

My name is James Wall and I am a 21-year-old student at UAF. I am writing to show my support for SB 174, and I have attached a petition with students and staff members of UAF who also support this bill. I support this bill for several reasons, the first being the atrocious number of sexual assaults and rapes that happen on UA campuses. Mass shootings and violent crimes tend to happen more often around soft unarmed targets, this is my second reason for supporting this bill. Thirdly I believe it is our right, granted by the bill of rights and the Alaska state constitution, which also supports the right to keep and bear arms. Next there are several states that allow concealed handguns by law on college campuses, all with no irregular problems. Finally I sit in class slightly on edge, never really sure if this might be the day that someone decides to go on a shooting spree. I shouldn't have to sit in class concerned of what could happen, I should be able to sit in class and feel that I could protect myself, since police show up after a crime has been committed. Last fall there was a threat called into our financial aid office from someone threatening to shoot it up. UAF did almost nothing to protect us as students and staff members which is unacceptable, if something were to have happened to us the university should be held fully liable. I know that many others feel the exact same way as myself; this can be seen on the petition form. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Petition of Support for SB No. 174

Petition summary and background	SB No. 174 would allow legal people to carry concealed handguns on UA campuses.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned University of Alaska Fairbanks students, staff, and faculty who urge our leaders to act now to allow concealed handguns to be carried on UA campuses.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Rosario Sheets	Rosario Sheets	[REDACTED]	I think Campus would be safer	2/17/16
Caitlin Hawthorne	Caitlin Hawthorne	[REDACTED]	I think I would discuss sexual violence	2/17/16
Amanda Wall	Amanda Wall	[REDACTED]	I want to carry on campus	2/17/16
Arrestesia Brown	Arrestesia Brown	[REDACTED]	I'd feel safer with concealed carry	2/17/16
James G. Christ	James G. Christ	[REDACTED]	I love Guns	2/17/16
Zachary Wall	Zachary Wall	[REDACTED]	It would help prevent sexual assault	2/17/16
Ryan Smith	Ryan Smith	[REDACTED]	make things safe for those on campus	2/18/16
Paul Brown	Paul Brown	[REDACTED]	It's about time	2/18/16
Greg Lester	Greg Lester	UAF	Make campus safer	2/18/16
Sean McFee	Sean McFee	UAF	Reasonable and educated views	2/18/16
Walter E. Cary	Walter E. Cary	UAF	Proper training, reduced available crime rate	2/18/16
DARRELL ALMON	DARRELL ALMON	UAF	SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA	2/18/16
Andrea Erskin	Andrea Erskin	[REDACTED]	Benefits students-staff	2/18/16
Luciel Ketori	Luciel Ketori	[REDACTED]	this is needed	2/18/16
Janis Witfield	Janis Witfield	[REDACTED]	2nd Amendment	2/18/16
Megan Colley	Megan Colley	[REDACTED]	should be able to conceal carry	2-18-16
Jessica Madallum	Jessica Madallum	[REDACTED]	conceal carry is safe due to most taking class	2/18/16
James Wall	James Wall	[REDACTED]	make campus a non-safe target	2/18/16
Kelsey Snell	Kelsey Snell	[REDACTED]	prevent sexual/physical assault	2/18/16
Mike Pence	Mike Pence	UAF	Personal safety	2/18/16
Jake Kenny	Jake Kenny	UAF	Personal Defense	2/18/16

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Holly Hillman	Holly Hillman	[REDACTED]	I would feel safer	2-19
Gavin Weger	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2-18
Ricky Durb	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Make Mexico great again!	2-18
JODY LETTER	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	WHY BE A VICTIM	2-19
Tyler Ludwig	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Increase security	2-19
Michael Moore	Michael Moore	[REDACTED]	I would feel safer	2-19
Shelley Good	[REDACTED]	UAF	It would reduce sexual assaults!	2-19
Samuel Janszke	[REDACTED]	UAF	I would carry	2/19
Mark Velasco	Mark Velasco	UAF	I would feel safer	2/19
Keara Parker	[REDACTED]	UAF	Would feel safer	2/19
Franklin	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Its a fight	2/19
Suzanne Gettrick	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Its the right thing to do	2/19
Virginia Gillette	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	I would feel safer	2/19
Megan Janszke	[REDACTED]	UAF,	I would carry	2/19
Christina Ballard	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2/19
Forrest Clark	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2/19
Amy Tuzzolin	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2/19
BRETT KERR	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes	2/19
Irene Anderson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2/19
Nick Faur	[REDACTED]	UAF		2/19
Ethan Trickey	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Reduces sex assault	2/20
Taylor Leit	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2/20
Robert Mondak	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	safer campus	2/20
Dalton Gray	[REDACTED]	UAF	I would carry	2/20
Barbara Gray	[REDACTED]	UAF	Feel safer	2/20
Allyssa Gace	[REDACTED]	UAF	I would be able to protect myself	2/20
Michael Marcell	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	I would carry	2/21
Josh McNeil	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		2/21

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Wesley Ray	[Signature]	[Redacted]	Crampus Would be safer	22 Jan Feb
Michael Jones	[Signature]	[Redacted]		22 Jan Feb
Thomas Antet	[Signature]	[Redacted]	UAF	22 Feb
ELLIOTT ANDERSON	Elliott R. Anderson	[Redacted]	I WOULD CARRY	22 FEB
GARY PORTER	Gary Porter	[Redacted]	I SUPPORT 174	22 FEB
GARY TINDEN	Gary C. Tinden	[Redacted]		22 FEB 16
Joel Bailey	Joe P Bailey	[Redacted]	Keep us safe	22 Feb 16
Kim M. Fadden	Kimberly M. Fadden	[Redacted]		2/22/16
Zach Goeden	Zach Goeden	[Redacted]		2/22/16
McKelli Harn	[Signature]	[Redacted]		2/22/16
Steve Gabrider	[Signature]	[Redacted]	America!	22 Feb 2016
Jason Skals	[Signature]	[Redacted]		22 Feb 2016
Isaac Grunfeld	[Signature]	[Redacted]		
Chris Turner	[Signature]	[Redacted]		22 Feb
Henry Munn	[Signature]	[Redacted]		2/22
Sydney Pace	Sydney Pace	[Redacted]	Licensed CCW holder	2/22/16
Jason Pace	Jason Pace	UAF		2/22/16
Matthew Timmerman	[Signature]	UAF	Self defense needed second amendment right	2/22/16
Tommy Matthews	[Signature]	UAF	Self defense	2/23/16
Jasmine Stokes	[Signature]	[Redacted]		2/23
Beightlich Cassen	[Signature]	[Redacted]	Self defense	2/23/16
Keegan Bowman	[Signature]	UAF		2/23/16
Sarah Jackson	[Signature]	[Redacted]	Reduces sex Assault	2/23/16
Thomas Abbin	[Signature]	[Redacted]		2/23/16
William Hemmer	[Signature]	[Redacted]	I'd carry	2/23/16
Ryan Stahl	[Signature]	UAF		2/23/16
John McGehee	[Signature]	[Redacted]	Would carry in Self defense	2/23/16
Ella VanSiegman	Ella VanSiegman	[Redacted]	Reduces sexual assault	2/23/16

[illegible]

Petition of Support for SB No. 174

Petition summary and background	SB No. 174 would allow legal people to carry concealed handguns on UA campuses.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned University of Alaska Fairbanks students, staff, and faculty who urge our leaders to act now to allow concealed handguns to be carried on UA campuses.

[illegible]

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[illegible]

Gayle Keller

From: Barrie Greenfield <barrie_greenfield@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: Bill 174 - Guns on Campus

Dear Senator Kelly,

As a recent UAF graduate, I want to express my support of Bill 174.

In the United States, a supposed Gun-free zone is simply an invitation to those who wish to harm others. My personal safety is not to be taken lightly, but when I am not allowed to carry concealed for my own protection or those fellow students around me, my safety is at risk. Attending night classes over the recent years meant that many times I had to walk across campus (or downtown at the CTC building) in the dark and away from crowds. Again, this means my own personal safety is at risk.

There are well-known incidents of individuals being sexually assaulted while on UA campuses- I do now wish to join that number and being able to carry concealed can be an effective deterrent to potential assailants.

I understand there are some concerns of guns being carried around minors and those who are not fully responsible. However, we live in Alaska. You can go to the local grocery store and there are people carrying concealed around minors, should we outlaw this also? (in case, you're wondering, NO!) I'd be willing to accept certain requirements to carry on campus, such as possessing a conceal and carry permit, even though it is not required normally for Alaskan residents.

The bottom line is, I should be allowed to carry concealed and defend myself regardless of my location- that means University of Alaska campuses, as well as my home, work and grocery stores.

thank You,

Barrie Greenfield

Fairbanks, Alaska

Gayle Keller

From: Erica Nardella <enardell@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 5:44 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: I support SB 174

Senator Kelly,

My name is Erica Nardella and I am a Social Work student at UAF. I just wanted to share that I support SB 174. I am definitely a minority in this position, but I had my own opinion before I even watched the Senate Education meeting.

First of all, I believe in constitutional rights, though I do not even believe that is your goal - I think defense and safety is your concern. I believe we are entitled to the civil liberties of the constitution, but those days are gone.

Beyond the violation of our constitutional rights, I think the main focus is in your assertion that a bad man with a gun is going to do what he wants, with or without legislation (paper). The best we can do is be able to protect ourselves and have a preventative measure. We cannot control bad things, but we do have power to protect ourselves. I am not sure why others do not see it from that perspective.

While I do concede that many (students, especially) feel that this will create a more dangerous atmosphere (even if perceived), it is our right to be able to defend ourselves. It stops there for me. It does help that your bill makes sense though. In other words, your bill makes more sense than potential risks. I like how you also showed the facts about being a target and being vulnerable.

Unfortunately, I do not believe it will pass - the university is entirely opposed to it, and I am very much against the grain in my opinion, but I just wanted to share my support with you.

Thank you for what you do and for fighting the good fight,

Erica Nardella

February 15, 2016

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am happy to respond and give my testimony in support of SB174. I look forward to this bill passing on the account of my testament to the freedom and right to keep and bear Arms.

I want to start by saying guns don't kill people, mentally ill people kill people. The "Batman shooter" James Holmes was mentally unstable and expressed his instability with a mass shooting. In a "Gun Free Zone". Criminals don't adhere to laws and will find a way to get access to guns because they are criminals. That is why law abiding citizens must have guns on their persons to protect themselves and stop criminals in their tracks.

Case in point, Charl Van Wyk prevented slaughter of hundreds of souls by terrorists during the St. James Massacre on July 25th, 1993. One man with a .38 special revolver stopped the attackers and they fled the church.

The gunman of the Oregon community college shooting which 10 people were killed went to a "Gun Free Zone" to murder defenseless people. Christopher Harper-mercier (the gunman) knew they would be defenseless because the law abiding students in the college were following the law and not armed. It was easy pickings for him on account the students were helpless to defend themselves. An air force veteran who was licensed to carry concealed during the shooting tried to assist but was stopped by staff members in the school.

What was the staff thinking? "Huddle together in an exit less room and hope the madman didn't find them". How gallant of them? This is the contingency plan for UAA I might add. It boggles my mind, the learned helplessness of some people. How can people think they have no power to change a situation that has turned for the worse? One man who was unarmed tried to apprehend the shooter, an army veteran Chris Mintz, ended up being shot five times. A true hero who tried to make a difference.

History and logical thinking has proven that gun-free zones are dangerous. I for one would feel much more secure legally carrying a weapon to defend myself in such situations.

Sincerely,

Herman Schliesing
Student University of Alaska Anchorage

Gayle Keller

From: mike smith <mikesmithak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 5:22 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SB174 Support

Senators, Kelly, Stoltze, Dunleavy, McGuire and Giessel,

As a university employee, please let me personally thank each of you for introducing and supporting SB174. In today's world, we hear too often of unstable students reeking havoc and destruction their fellow students and unarmed staff. In the office where I work, students are often highly charged and overly anxious about their financial aid, admission status, full classes or a variety of other issues that seem to take them to the brink of rational thinking. Thank God we have not had any major incidents of violence yet. Still, infringing on my right to keep and bear arms at my place of work, and then making the situation more dangerous by posting to the public that I'm unarmed, is both unconstitutional and unacceptable.

Please accept this email as my unequivocal support of SB174 and any legislation that allows me to retain my rights as a citizen and takes the Board of Regents out of the role of interpreting the Second Amendment. "Shall not infringe" seems cut and dry to me. I should have the right to carry my firearm wherever I go. The only place I'm truly vulnerable is the place I spend most of my day... at work.

Also, please understand that while I respect the university's position on the matter, it is NOT shared by all of it's employees. Many of us believe that it is based less on student safety and more on covering their liabilities. Hypothetical scenarios and dangers, no matter how valid they make them out to be, should never supersede the law. I believe the adage that says, "when we trade our freedoms for safety, we end up with neither."

If you have any questions regarding this email or my support for SP174, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 907-952-7251

Michael B. Smith
Concerned University Employee

Joseph Byrnes

From: robert clift <robcliftalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 13:40
To: Joseph Byrnes
Subject: S.B. 174

The Alaska Libertarian Party is in total support of SB 174. A bill which would allow Concealed Carry on University Of Alaska campuses. We feel it recognizes a right that Alaskans already have and can only result in greater individual liberty.

We strongly support this bill.

Rob Clift
Chair Alaska Libertarian Party

Gayle Keller

From: Simon Gilliland <simongilliland@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 3:36 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Bill Stoltze; senator.bill.wielochowski@akleg.gov; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill
Cc: ua.president@alaska.edu; dlmilke@alaska.edu; marizk@alaska.edu
Subject: Support for SB 174

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you today in **SUPPORT** of SB 174. I am a former UA student and engineering graduate and the elder brother of three sisters who are former or current UA students.

Now that I have graduated I don't frequent the campuses as often but when I do it is usually to spend a quite weekend afternoon in the UAA/APU Consortium Library; and every time I am greeted by the same familiar sign "Gun Free Zone". After my time as a student I know to take off and stow my pistol before exiting my vehicle but why should I be required to do so? I am a law abiding US and Alaskan citizen who despite failing four engineering and upper level math classes that I can recall and being required to retake 18 credits of GER and 100 Level classes when I transferred into UAA never felt the need to get even with the university or my professors for perceived or actual injustices. You know why I never felt the need to be violent? Because like the infinite majority of the population I was taught that violence isn't the answer and to respect the law. But because of a prejudice, weapons are not permitted on University property. When an individual is bent on committing a crime a sign or "statute" isn't going to stop them; equal and **timely** force in the possession of a calmer minded individual most likely will however.

Let me illustrate. I assume most if not all of you have or had young children at one point. If they became angry and decided to take their hand, commonly a toddler's "weapon" of choice, and hit someone who had offended or angered them how did you stop them? Most likely using your hand; the hand of a clear thinking individual who used the same "tool", a hand, to stop or prevent an attack where the same "tool" was used as an instrument of force and perpetration.

Now back to the campus library. On the way into the main Consortium Library entrance you might not see the Providence Transit Center bus stop but on the way out it's hard to miss. Now bus users, of which I was one during college, are not the reason for this mention; the bus bench "clientele" who hang out there on a nearly daily basis however are. Now these are not by any means all bad people but they look rough from their time on the streets and very similar to those same individuals above who have little to no respect for the law or be intent on preying on a young lady in particular. As I mentioned above I have three sister's who have or are attending various UA campuses. They are all smart about where they go, daylight or not, but sometimes this isn't enough to protect ones self. Now I know many University students do not meet the minimum age requirements under the law of twenty-one years of age to carry a handgun concealed however this is not reason to allow them to be banned entirely by University statute. I recall one female classmate who carried two things on the outside of her book bag, mace, and for those who might not take the hint, a folding knife which I can only assume she would have had not qualms with using should a predator required additional persuasion that he had picked a bad target for his evil intentions. These methods she was forced to carry however are very limited in their ability to protect beyond an extremely close quarter's contact confrontation and I imagine she would have much rather

carried her handgun which she could, and did, legally carry elsewhere during her daily life. Why are we allowing the University to limit individuals to only protecting themselves from harm once they have actually been assaulted?

When I attended UAA there were many returning or otherwise older students. In my graduating engineering class of roughly twenty five students, I was at twenty-two years of age I believe the second youngest with at least a quarter of the class being over twenty-five. And you can be certain that I wasn't the only one who's first order of business upon returning to our cars was to fill the empty holster in our waistband or inside our shirt or pant leg. Why did we all carry? Because we all cared about the safety of our loved ones, those around us, and ourselves. Why do we abide by the University's rules as unconstitutional as they are? Because we are law and University statute abiding citizens who would prefer to not deal with the bureaucracy of the University or risk repercussions to our degrees because of the University losing a very embarrassing and public court battle. No the people being punished by this University statute which the Legislature is intending to suppress are the same men and women who would confront an armed perpetrator with only our bare hands if necessary to save the lives of our classmates or people we don't even know. Why? Because it is our duty and privilege as citizens to look out for and protect those weaker among us. Some of these men and women have protected this nation while fighting on foreign soils while others have not yet had the opportunity to save the life of a fellow man.

We are the parents who barely get assignments in on time, straight A students who's life revolves around our studies, the student athletes whose faces are used in promoting Alaskan Universities, and above all we are the first people who will react to a problem when it arises. The time has come to take the restraints off of those of us who follow the law and would protect our fellow man if the need arose. The time has come for the Legislature to ensure we have access to the same tools to protect ourselves and others, afforded to us by the US and Alaska State Constitutions, while going about our lives as students on the campuses of Alaska's public University system.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Simon Gilliland - Former UA Student and 17 year Alaskan Resident

My name is Tom Boutin. I live here in Juneau. Thank you for having this hearing, and thank you for allowing me to call in to this hearing. I am speaking just for myself of course.

SB174 is needed legislation in my view. The legislation appears to cover the need very well and the drafters have met every concern that could possibly have occurred to me.

I think the bill addresses an apparent oversight in state law. Clearly, gun-free zones cannot work and do not work to eliminate or even reduce violence today. As a matter of fact from watching the national news each evening it seems that when some nut goes off his medication or wants to get through to his lady psychologist, or when some terrorist wants to come here and kill us it seems likely he will choose to do so in a gun-free zone. But even apart from that scenario, if I had a daughter or if my wife was taking an evening class I would much prefer that when she walks to her car at the end of class her revolver be in her purse instead of locked in her car. I think most people feel that way today, and I expect that in no small part this legislation will bring University rules in line with current common practice.

This is careful and constructive legislation. Concerns expressed by University interests seem to be very similar to concerns expressed 25 years ago when Alaska concealed carry was first considered by the Legislature. Critics said that upon enactment concealed carry would result in Alaskans reaching for their guns to settle any argument and that bars would have bullets flying as in an old cowboy movie. Moreover, the scenarios cited by opponents talk about hypothetical circumstances that are unlawful today and would remain unlawful after SB174 became law such as armed students abusing alcohol. Thank you for your time.

I am a certified National Rifle Association Instructor and a Range Safety Officer. My wife and I are volunteer managers at the ADF&G indoor range; last summer we opened and managed the range for public hours every Sunday, and we have done that for a few summers.