

FS_2017_5. Regarding House Bill 1249 Concerning the Possession of a Concealed Handgun in a Public University, Public College or Community College Building.

Whereas ample evidence shows that there is no public safety justification for forcing Arkansas colleges to allow guns;

Whereas concealed weapons on campus would place unnecessary burdens on campus police;

Whereas all Arkansas university boards of trustees, presidents, and chiefs of campus police oppose this legislation;

Whereas states that have passed similar legislation have faced lawsuits and difficulties with faculty retention;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock

1. urges the Governor and members of the Arkansas State Legislature to respect the public safety decisions of the colleges in the state; and
2. joins with boards of trustees, colleges, campus police, and faculty across the state in rejecting proposals to force colleges to allow guns on campus.

Commentary: This recommendation has the same wording used for a recent recommendation passed at Henderson State University. UA Fayetteville faculty senate also approved a recommendation in 2015, which they affirmed in December 2016.

A brief bibliography with easily accessible research resources:

1. Webster, Daniel (et al). "Firearms on College Campuses: Research Evidence and Policy Implications." A Report for Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2015). Accessible here:
http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/_pdfs/GunsOnCampus.pdf
3. CD Phillips (et al): "Concealed Handgun Licensing and Crime in Four States." Journal of Criminology. 2015. Open access here:
<https://www.hindawi.com/archive/2015/803742/>
4. Vince, Joseph (et al): "Firearms Training and Self-Defense: Does the Quality and Frequency of Training Determine the Realistic Use of Firearms for Self Defense? Facts and Evidence for Public Policy Considerations." A Report Prepared for NGVAC. 2015. Accessible here:
http://www.gunvictimsaction.org/downloads22/FirearmsTrainings%20_StudyDocument_F_062115.pdf
5. Alschuler, Albert W. "Two Guns, Four Guns, Six Guns, More Guns: Does Arming the Public Reduce Crime?" Valparaiso University Law Review, Vol. 31, No. 2 (1997). [a response to some commonly-cited research from the 90s]

6. A brief overview of some of the research regarding campus carry:

<https://www.thetrace.org/2015/11/campus-carry-self-defense-accidental-shootings-research/>

Testimony was given by chancellors/heads of state campuses and by Dr. Bobbitt (UA system president) and UA Fayetteville Director of University Police Gahagans against HB 1249 at the House Judiciary Committee meeting on 1/31/17 as well as in the recent past on previous iterations of this bill (e.g., Chancellor Joel Anderson in 2015).