

Selected Supporting Statements Regarding a Ban on Firearms on Campus

Relative safety of college campuses:

- “College campuses are safer than the communities surrounding them. 93% of the violence against students occurs off campus. The one reason? Colleges and universities have tightly controlled firearms” (U.S. Department of Education, 2010).
- Jurisdictions with restrictive firearms legislation and lower firearms ownership tend to have lower levels of gun violence (World Health Organization, 2009).
- A 2005 study (Loomis, Marshall, & Ta) found that workplaces where guns were permitted were 5 to 7 times more likely to be the site of workplace homicide when compared to workplaces where guns were prohibited.

Increased risk when firearms are permitted:

- Concealed weapons needlessly place students, faculty, staff, and visitors at increased risk for accidental shootings, drug and alcohol-related violence, and suicide.
- “No credible statistical evidence exists to show permissive CCW laws reduce crimes. In fact, evidence suggests that permissive carry laws may actually increase crime” (Legal Community Against Violence, n.d.; refers to Ayres & Donohue, 2003).
- Important research confirms the common sense conclusion that more guns create more opportunity for injury and death, no less (Miller, Azarel, & Hemenway, 2002).
- A 2002 study (Miller, Hemenway, & Wechsler, 2002) found that having a firearm was strongly associated with being threatened with a gun while at college. Additionally, students who reported having a firearm on campus reported that they engaged in behaviors risky to them and others.
- An ongoing study on news reports by the Violence Policy Center (2011, March 05) asserts that from May 2007 through the last month, concealed permit holders killed at least 9 law enforcement officers and 279 private citizens (including 25 shooters who killed themselves). In addition, permit holders committed at least 18 mass murders.

Public support is lacking:

- Overwhelming college campuses ban concealed weapons. 26 states plus the District of Columbia ban concealed weapons on college and university property; 23 states leave the decision up to the campus; and only one allows guns on

- campuses at public institutions (American Association of State Colleges & Universities, 2008; Dickerson, 2011).
- Since 2007 there have been over 30 attempts to expand concealed carry laws to permit the carrying of weapons on campus. These efforts have been largely unsuccessful (Brady Center, 2010).

Violation of campus self-governance principles and academic freedom:

- Academic institutions need to be able to make independent decisions about a wide range of issues that impact the educational enterprise.
- “Protecting free expression of teachers and students is the most obvious way in which academic freedom must be secured. Teachers must be able to address even the most controversial subjects, in their research and writing endeavors as well as in the classroom, without fear that they will be punished for challenging conventional thought or espousing provocative ideas. Students must have the same ability to pursue knowledge without risk of being penalized or restrained by those who might disagree with the students' views. All of these cherished values of our educational process would be greatly diminished if college classrooms were filled with armed students and teachers” (The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, n.d.).
- “The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized the importance of respecting schools' rights to self-governance and independent decision-making. This principle of institutional autonomy has been enshrined in the constitutions of many states. Thus, college administrations must be free to set their own policies with respect to firearms” (The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, n.d.).

References

American Association of State Colleges and Universities (2008, November). *Concealed weapons on state college campuses: In pursuit of individual liberty and collective security*. Retrieved from: <http://www.aascu.org/media/pm/pdf/pmdec08.pdf>

Ayres, I. & Donohue III, J.J. (2003, April). Shooting down the “More Guns, Less Crime” hypothesis. Retrieved from: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=343781

Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence (2010). *Guns on campus legislation in 2009*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bradycampaign.org/legislation/publicplaces/gunsoncampus/statebattles>

Dickerson, D. (2011, February 11). *White paper---Guns on campus*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.nabita.org/documents/WhitePaperGunsonCampus.pdf>

Hemenway, D., Azarel, D., & Miller, M. (2001). National attitudes concerning gun carrying in the United States. *Injury Prevention*, 7, 282-287. Retrieved from:
<http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/7/4/282.abstract>

Legal Community Against Violence (2009). *America caught in the crossfire: How concealed carry laws threaten public safety*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.lcav.org/concealedcarry/>

Loomis, D., Marshall, S.W., & Ta, M.L. (2005). Employer policies towards guns & the risk of homicide in the workplace. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95, 830-832.

Miller, M., Hemenway, D., & Wechsler, H. (2002). Guns and gun threats at college. *Journal of American College Health*, 51(2), 57-65.

The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus (n.d.). *The case against guns on campus*. Retrieved from: <http://www.keepgunsoffcampus.org/brady.html>

U.S. Department of Education-Higher Education Center (2010, January). *Guns on campus: A current debate*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.higheredcenter.org/services/assistance/prevention-update/guns-campus-current-debate>

University of Louisiana System (2009, May). *Talking points/House Bill 27*. Retrieved from: <http://louisiana.edu/blogs/president/files/2009/05/2009-rs-hb27.pdf>

Violence Policy Center (11 March 05). *Concealed carry killers*. Retrieved from
<http://www.vpc.org/ccwkillers.htm>

World Health Organization (2009). *Violence prevention the evidence. Guns, knives, & pesticides: Reducing access to lethal means*. Retrieved from:
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241597739_eng.pdf