

March 7, 2017

Kim Conard
kimconard13@gmail.com

Dear Chairman John Barker and the members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I OPPOSE House Bill HB2220.

This Bill will strip universities from making policies regarding handguns and the safety of students, faculty and staff on campuses. It will make an environment for learning more unsafe. I believe it will increase the chances for shootings on campuses rather than prevent them, especially since our current gun laws don't require any kind of training on how to handle and use/not use a gun.

I would much rather see a weapon in the hands of someone that is trained to handle one and would not use it emotionally like the police, than a random individual, who I know nothing about their knowledge of guns or their emotional stability. As a staff member at one of our great state's universities, I would feel unsafe. I can only imagine that as a student, the idea that a fellow classmate or professor or staff had a gun would make it difficult for me to think about my studies, worrying about who might have a weapon.

In addition, history has shown that carrying weapons promotes violence rather than prevents it. In an atmosphere that is all about learning, accepting and sharing of ideas, carrying a concealed weapon is contradictory to that. I think the universities should be able to decide on their own weapons policies, since they have the best knowledge of what their environments are like and what would work best for the safety of not only students, faculty & staff but visitors to their institutions as well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kim Conard