

Resolution of the University of South Florida Faculty Senate in opposition to legislation allowing concealed weapons to be carried by permit holders on university campuses

Whereas, the Faculty Senate of the University of South Florida (USF) is the primary faculty advisory body on matters pertaining to the welfare of the university; and

Whereas, the USF Faculty Senate is concerned about the safety and welfare of all members of the USF community, and aims to maintain a welcoming campus community; and

Whereas, universities are sanctuaries for scholarship and learning, where firearms have traditionally not been allowed, dating back to the founding of the University of Virginia in 1824 by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison; and

Whereas, university students are often just beginning to learn how to cope with the stresses of campus life and the transition to adulthood; and

Whereas, “the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited”¹; and

Whereas, the presence of concealed weapons on campus has not proven effective at preventing mass shootings on college campuses in states that allow campus carry²; and

Whereas, proposed legislation would allow any concealed weapon permit holder, including those outside of the USF community, to carry concealed firearms onto our campus; and

Whereas, the vast majority of university administrators and law enforcement professionals agree that, as an essential element of an overall school safety plan, firearms on campus should only be carried by trained security or police³; therefore

Be It Resolved that the USF Faculty Senate strongly opposes any legislation that allows individuals other than sworn law enforcement officers to carry firearms on university campuses and/or facilities or that abridges the ability of university authorities to restrict the presence of weapons on campus.

Passed: 03/22/2017

¹ *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 US 570 (2008)

² Webster D, et al. (2016) *Firearms on College Campuses: Research Evidence and Policy Implications*. Baltimore, MD: Center for Gun Policy and Research, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

³ Thompson A, et al. (2010) *Reducing Firearm-Related Violence on College Campuses – Police Chiefs’ Perceptions and Practices*. J. Am. Coll. Health 58:247-54; Price JH, et al. (2014) *University Presidents’ Perceptions and Practice Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on College Campuses*. J. Am. Coll. Health 62:461-9.

Introduced: 02/28/2017