

To the Chair of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs: John Barker

I strongly urge the committee to vote against HB2220, that would prohibit any control by Kansas public colleges over their students possession of lethal weapons. Colleges and Universities and their faculty have great responsibility over the students in their charge to protect them from potential physical or mental harm. The government has not right to force the to abrogate those moral responsibilities.

The implementation of the existing ill-considered concealed carry law on July 1 has the potential to do great harm. It will have the very likely result of restraining faculty freedom to teach and challenge students. Even more seriously, the easy access to lethal weapons by students has the significant potential to increase deaths and injuries on campus resulting from interpersonal conflict, domestic abuse and rape, accidental injury, and suicide. We have already witnessed two acts of gun-related suicide on campus in the past year. I have deep concerns for the consequences of the implementation of the widespread presence of guns in dorms and classrooms

What has happened to all of the talk of “local Control.” I can see no stronger case for the need for local community and individual campus control that on an issue such as this. It the parents, faculty, and mental health professionals on campus that are closest to the situations of individual students. They are in position to best set and administer policies concerning weapon possession — not the state.

Sincerely,

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