

Resolution 2016-15. On Calling for the Repeal of a Portion of HB 562

The Faculty Council resolves:

In light of the dangers presented by the carrying of private firearms on campus, and in support of the position taken by UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of Public Safety, we call upon the General Assembly to repeal that part of section 3 of HB 562 which legalizes removing a firearm from a vehicle parked on campus.

Submitted by Professor Emeritus Andrew Dobelstein.

Comment

In its 2015-2016 session, the North Carolina General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, House Bill 562, which now permits gun owners to remove a handgun from within a closed compartment or container in a locked vehicle parked on campus “in response to a threatening situation in which deadly force was justified.” This resolution is prompted by the following concerns:

1. Firearm deaths were the third leading cause of death in 2010-2014 for all ages in North Carolina (after unintentional poisoning and unintentional motor vehicle traffic deaths).¹
2. Firearm deaths were the second leading cause of death in 2010-2014 for ages 18-22 in North Carolina (after unintentional motor vehicle traffic deaths).²
3. In the past 3 years, students have been injured, some fatally, by firearms on and off campus at NCA&T,³ NCCU,⁴ and WSSU.⁵
4. In the past year, UNC-CH experienced one lockdown for a report of a firearm on campus in what turned out to be a false alarm.⁶
5. Law enforcement officials, including UNC-CH Police Chief Jeff McCracken, have

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)* [online]. (2005) [cited 2016 Oct. 13]. Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars

² Centers for Disease Control, op. cit.

³ Good D. Two North Carolina A&T State University students killed in house party shooting. *New York Daily News*. Oct. 2, 2016.

⁴ Student shot on NCCU campus, gunman search underway [online]. *ABC11 Eyewitness News*. (Oct. 26, 2015) [cited 2016 Dec. 10]. Available from URL: <http://abc11.com/news/student-shot-on-nccu-campus-gunman-search-underway/1051098/>

⁵ Hewlett M. Argument over liquor, cellphone charger spurred fatal shooting of WSSU student in 2015, warrant says. *Winston-Salem Journal*, Nov. 23, 2016.

⁶ UNC lockdown: No armed person found on campus. *DailyTarheel.com* [online]. (Dec. 2, 2015) [cited Dec. 10, 2016]. Available at URL: <http://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2015/12/breaking-breaking>

expressed concern that an armed bystander would make it more difficult for campus police to intervene in a genuine firearm emergency.⁷

6. In 2008, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) issued a position statement against concealed carry on campus.⁸

⁷ Chief Jeff McCracken, personal communication, July 27, 2015.

⁸ National Behavioral Intervention Team Association. Position Statement. *Concealed Carry Legislation Related to Mass Shootings*. March 2016. (See also IACLEA Board of Directors, March 19, 2008. *IACLEA Position Statement on Concealed Weapon Carrying Proposals*.

http://www.iaclea.org/visitors/PDFs/ConcealedWeaponStatement_March08.pdf)