



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

82nd Session, 2014-2015

IN OPPOSITION OF AB-148

Resolution Number: 135

Authored By: Senator Andrew

Sponsored By: Committee on Public Affairs

Whereas, it is currently a gross misdemeanor under NRS 202.265 to possess or carry a weapon on the property of the Nevada System of Higher Education, a private or public school or child care facility, or while in a vehicle of a private or public school or child care facility;

Whereas, Nevada Assembly Bill 148, sponsored by Assemblywoman Fiore and others, would authorize persons with a concealed carry permit to possess their weapons on school grounds;

Whereas, under NRS 202.265, there is already a means by which persons with a concealed weapon permit may carry their weapon on school property with written permission of the president or principal of the school. At the University of Nevada, Reno, five out of eleven people who applied in 2014 through the president's office to carry a concealed weapon were permitted to do so;

Whereas, the only persons who should be in possession of weapons on school property are law enforcement officers, school security guards, and persons who are authorized to do so by the president or principal of the school;

Whereas, there is no recorded instance in which a victim or witness to a violent crime on a college campus has prevented it by brandishing a weapon (*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2015);

Whereas, a study of sexual assault among college women showed that nine of ten knew the person who assaulted them; therefore, they would be unlikely to brandish a weapon to defend themselves in such a situation (*Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice*, 2000)

Whereas, surveys among college students showed that 67% of males and 86% of females opposed “campus-carry” type legislation (*New York Times*, 2015).

Whereas, the bill’s intention is to protect students; however, a student carrying a concealed weapon could have an adverse effect. In the case of an emergency situation occurring on campus, first-responders could have difficulty differentiating between an active shooter and a student legally carrying a concealed weapon;

Whereas, the training required for a citizen to obtain a concealed weapons permit does not necessarily mean that the person is able to react in the case of an active shooter being on campus, as opposed to professionals who have been trained in crisis reaction situations;

Whereas, faculty and staff members at the University of Nevada, Reno have expressed deep concern regarding the implications of this bill, with many stating that passage of this bill would encourage them to seek employment elsewhere;

Whereas, with the University of Nevada, Reno aiming to gain a very-high research classification from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the University ought to do all it can to retain high-ranking faculty members, especially with faculty legislative priorities such as merit pay already discouraging faculty members from staying in Nevada;

Whereas, the University of Nevada, Reno campus, in conjunction with the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, have created programs and services to increase student safety on campus including a blue-light emergency call system, Campus Escort, and promoting the “Circle of 6” app;

Whereas, an institution of higher learning should be a place where diverse ideas are shared in a free-flowing manner, and adding concealed weapons to the picture would detract from this;

Whereas, the possession of weapons by citizens on educational grounds would present an undue risk to the health and safety of Nevada students;

Be it resolved that, the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada oppose the passage of AB-148 by the Nevada Legislature;

Be it further resolved that, this resolution is presented on behalf of the Associated Students to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for the hearing on Assembly Bill 148;

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of Nevada Assemblywoman Amber Joiner, University of Nevada President, Marc Johnson, and Vice Chancellor Constance Brooks.

Adopted in Senate on February 25, 2015

Attest:

Lexi Jacobson, Secretary of the Senate

Caden Fabbi, Speaker of the Senate