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Regents Pass Resolution Opposing Bill Allowing Firearms on Campus

University Police Chiefs Highlight Campus Safety Efforts and Enhancements

(Phoenix, Ariz.) -- Unanimous opposition to Senate Bill 1474, which would require public universities to allow anyone age 21 or older with a concealed-carry permit to carry a gun on campus, underscored campus safety reports by the Arizona University System Chiefs of Police to the Arizona Board of Regents at its recent meeting.

The Regents, along with the university presidents, faculty and student associations, university police departments and the Arizona Association of Police Chiefs, as well as numerous other groups, have voiced strong opposition to SB 1474. The Regents passed a unanimous resolution at their meeting reaffirming its opposition to allowing firearms on campus, as required by SB 1474.

In light of recent shooting situations at other university campuses, the campus police chiefs assured the Regents that the scope and scale of university police departments, intervention protocols, security enhancements and law enforcement collaborations guarantee the police departments are efficient and capable to address all violent and non-violent crime on campus.

"We are mindful to reaffirm and remind everyone that the Arizona University System has stringent security protocols in place to ensure the safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors on our campuses," said Regent Dennis DeConcini, who offered the resolution. "We are confident that firearms on campus, other than those carried by law enforcement, are detrimental to the safety and security of our campus environments."

The police chiefs' reports highlighted safety enhancements, intervention protocols and community partnerships that have heightened safety awareness and attributed to crime reduction. Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and University of Arizona Police Chiefs John Pickens, Gregory Fowler and Anthony Daykin, respectively, pointed to increased collaboration with local, state and federal law enforcement, ongoing education and training and prevention as the key elements that keep the university campuses safe.

"The vast collaborations in place between our campus police and law enforcement partners, as well as intense internal scrutiny of our own policies, training and protocol goes a long way to reassure all of us of the safety of our campuses," said Regent and Board Chair Bob McLendon.

The chiefs were united in voicing their opposition to firearms on campus other than those carried by law enforcement, sharing that it would impede police officers abilities to ensure safety.

"If you asked me how many guns I own, I would say 'not enough'. Responsible gun ownership is part of my family tradition," said Regent Ernest Calderón. "However, I don't understand the need to allow or to justify handguns on campus. Allowing handguns on campus creates nothing more than unnecessary liability."

Highlights of university campus safety enhancements and intervention protocols include increased electronic alert and advisory communication systems, significant safety orientations and awareness campaigns, active-shooter training programs for students and police, increased security cameras, and proactive behavioral assessment teams that monitor and address threatening behavioral patterns of student, faculty and staff. Follow these links for the [ASU](#), [NAU](#) and [UA](#) campus safety reports.

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