

January 26, 2023

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
HB 1404

Chairman Porter and Committee members:

Let the record reflect my support for House Bill 1404("HB 1404"), as written and introduced by Representatives Heilman, Bahl, Christensen, Jauck, Koppelman and Prichard, and Senator Magrum.

The intent of this Bill is to remove an undue infringement on the ability of a person, whom is already authorized to carry a concealed firearm or dangerous weapon under chapter 62.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, to do so on the premises of any institution under the control of the state board of higher education.

While cliché, it is not inaccurate to say that criminals do not respect, and are rarely deterred from action by, laws. That's why they're criminals. While this certainly doesn't imply all laws are of no value and should be invalidated, this logic must apply to laws that create an environment of heightened risk to the law abiding citizen via disarmament. To paraphrase Ayn Rand "[when you see that] your laws don't protect you from them, but protect them from you--you may know that your society is doomed."

The inability of lawfully-authorized persons to carry and possess firearms or dangerous weapons on campuses, universities, and the like places that person in an environment of heightened risk. Such prohibition removes from the citizen his/her God-given right to self-preservation. No man or institution has the right to supersede such inalienable rights, and HB 1404 is a positive step in righting a statutory wrong.

"Am armed society is a polite society." --Robert Heinlein.

I respectfully request a "do pass" recommendation from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Respectfully,

Matthew S. Simon