

NDSA-12-2324

## A Resolution in Opposition to Open and Concealed Gun Carry on NDUS College Campuses

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the last several legislative sessions, numerous bills have been proposed in the North Dakota Legislature that would allow firearms on college campuses; and,

**WHEREAS**, in response to HB 1311<sup>1</sup> during the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in 2021, the NDSA passed NDSA-16-2021, opposing HB 1311 on the basis that this bill would have also allowed individuals licensed to carry firearms on college campuses, additionally citing student mental health concerns and change in the operations of campus security<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, in response to HB 1404<sup>3</sup> during the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in 2023, the NDSA testified in opposition, citing mental health concerns for students on college campuses, the use of a lethal weapon for suicide, and NDSA-16-2021<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, among college students, mental health continues to be an issue, with suicide being the among the top four leading causes of death for individuals 15-24, with a 57% increase in the rate of suicide from 2009 to 2017 for people aged 15-19, and a 63% increase from 2001 to 2021 for people aged 20-24; and,

**WHEREAS**, by allowing firearms on college campus, suicide rates and attempts could increase, through easier access to a lethal means of committing suicide; and,

**WHEREAS**, over the last few decades, several states have passed legislation allowing firearms on college campuses and, as of 2022, 11 states allow campus carry, 22 states allow the campuses to decide, and 17 states prohibit campus carry<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, gun violence on college campuses and in public areas has been on a rise in the last few decades with 323 documented cases of gunfire on college campuses, in which 162 people have died in these cases, 95 of them from campus shootings<sup>7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, there were 2 major shootings on college campuses in 2023, at Michigan State

<sup>1</sup> [https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/67-2021/regular/bill-overview/bo1311.html?bill\\_year=2021&bill\\_number=1311](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/67-2021/regular/bill-overview/bo1311.html?bill_year=2021&bill_number=1311)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ndsa.ndus.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/02/NDSA-16-2021.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/bill-overview/bo1404.html?bill\\_year=2023&bill\\_number=1404](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/bill-overview/bo1404.html?bill_year=2023&bill_number=1404)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/testimony/HNATRES-1404-20230126-17129-A-SCOTT\\_CHRISTOPHER\\_M.pdf](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/testimony/HNATRES-1404-20230126-17129-A-SCOTT_CHRISTOPHER_M.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db471.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/guns-in-public/guns-in-schools/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/gunfire-on-school-grounds/>; <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/college-shootings-statistics/>

University, where three were killed and five were injured<sup>8</sup>, with the shooter committing suicide, and at the University of Nevada, where a shooter killed three faculty members<sup>9</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, as cited in NDSA-16-2021, a study found that 78 percent of college students were not supportive of concealed handguns on campuses<sup>10</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, in another survey given to 1,000 current and prospective students, 65 % indicated that schools made them worry about campus safety, with 60 % of those surveyed indicating that campus safety was a factor when considering their college<sup>11</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, during campus visits that the NDSA conducted during the 2022-2023 academic year, faculty expressed concerns regarding concealed firearms on college campuses with concerns that firearms could potentially escalate situations where students are dissatisfied with grades; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Dakota Student Association opposes any and all legislation that would change Section 62.1 . of the North Dakota Century Code to allow firearms on campuses, whether concealed or open carry.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly*

*Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/michigan-state-university-shooting-updates-2-14-23/index.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/live-blog/unlv-shooting-las-vegas-live-updates-rcna128402>

<sup>10</sup> <http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.library.und.edu/10.1080/07448481.2013.799478>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/campus-safety-survey/>