

# NKU FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED CONCEALED-CARRY LAW

Approved by a vote of the Faculty Senate on February 27, 2017

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## BACKGROUND

In Kentucky, currently no permit is needed to purchase a firearm, and no person is required to register a firearm. Moreover, open carriage of firearms already is lawful except in restricted areas. Public universities, including NKU, currently qualify as areas in which carriage of firearms may be restricted.

In its current session, the Kentucky Legislature is considering two proposals that would increase carriage of deadly weapons in public places. These proposals would impact NKU directly. In particular, Section 2 of H.B. 249 would amend existing KRS § 237.115(b) to provide that:

A publicly funded college, university, or postsecondary education facility shall not restrict the carrying or possession of a deadly weapon on any property owned or controlled by the institution by a person who holds a valid concealed deadly weapon license. . .

At the same time, Section 1 of S.B. 7 would amend KRS § 527.020(2) to eliminate the current system of concealed-carry licensure, and instead would authorize every lawful owner of firearms to engage in concealed carriage of those firearms. In essence, this proposal would deem every lawful gun-owner to be a person who holds a valid concealed deadly weapon license.

Against the background of Kentucky's existing law, the two current legislative proposals together would authorize almost anyone who has not been convicted of a serious crime to carry firearms—either openly or concealed—on our campus. Our university would be stripped of its existing legal authority to promulgate and enforce its own policy on deadly weapons. Neither our campus police nor anyone else would know who might be carrying firearms on campus.

## RESOLUTION

For the following reasons, *the General Faculty of Northern Kentucky University urges the Kentucky legislature to refrain from stripping public universities in Kentucky of our existing legal authority to establish and enforce our own campus firearms policies*, as Section 2 of H.B. 249 would do.

(1) **NKU is our workplace.** Under the two proposed bills, all private-sector workplaces (including private universities) would remain free to set their own firearms policies. In addition, many public-sector workplaces (including police stations, sheriff's offices, detention facilities, prisons, jails, courthouses, local government offices, K-12 schools and pre-schools, airports, and the Kentucky Capitol building) would remain free to set their own firearms policies. As with other public and private employers, the governing authorities of Northern Kentucky University are best situated to set an appropriate firearms policy for our workplace.

(2) **Concealed carry on campus is not needed to protect our campus from armed criminals.** NKU has its own campus police force which is capable of protecting our campus from crime. NKU has not experienced any problem with violent crime, and indeed has been recognized for its exemplary safety. The proposed measure is not needed to prevent crime.

(3) **Concealed carry on campus may threaten our financial viability.** At NKU, we have an obligation to keep our students safe. Moreover, parents pay increasing attention to “safe campus” factors when deciding where to send their children to college. We are concerned that parents would question the safety of a campus with unregulated firearms carriage, and would choose to send their children elsewhere. Any corresponding impact on student enrollment numbers would reduce our operating budget and impair our ability to carry out our basic educational mission.