

For immediate release

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STUDENT PETITION SUPPORTS GUNS ON CAMPUS:
Students say firearms have been good for CSU and should remain legal

FORT COLLINS – Members of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus at Colorado State University will deliver a petition to CSU President Tony Frank on Friday. The petition, which has more than 1,300 signatures, will be delivered page by page from students to affirm support for the university's current policy allowing licensed concealed carry on campus.

"Students have shown tremendous support for concealed carry at CSU in the student government, in the university's newspaper, and through the petition drive," said Tim Campbell, SCCC Campus Leader at CSU. "The Board of Governors should honor the will of the students."

The petition is being delivered just four days prior to a CSU Board of Governors meeting, where it is expected they will approve a ban on licensed concealed carry—a change from the university's currently policy, which has been in place for nearly seven years.

"The gun ban is a solution in search of a problem," said David Burnett, a spokesman for Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC). "Since concealed carry on campus became legal at CSU, crime rates didn't just drop, they plummeted. Criminals are intimidated by victims empowered to fight back, not by pieces of paper taped to the door telling them guns are against the rules." The group has pointed to Colorado State University, along with public colleges in Utah, as examples of the success seen when licensed concealed carry on campus is allowed.

"Over the last seven years, the 25,000 students at CSU have grown comfortable with the idea that self-defense on campus is no less important, and no more threatening, than self-defense off-campus," said Jim Manley, SCCC Colorado State Director. "Not a single incident of gun theft or gun misuse by a licensee has been reported since concealed carry became an everyday occurrence at CSU in 2003."

"No thinking person looking at the facts can conclude a gun ban would improve safety at CSU," Burnett concluded. "Either they're not looking at the facts, or they're not thinking."

SCCC is already involved in pending litigation against the University of Colorado for enforcing a firearms ban on campus, and a victory for gun rights in that case would likely mean any ban at CSU would also be held unlawful. Oral argument in the case against CU is scheduled for March 23, 2010, at the Colorado Court of Appeals. SCCC has not yet decided if it would join with other groups in a separate lawsuit against CSU if a ban is implemented.

CONTACT

Students for Concealed Carry on Campus

www.ConcealedCampus.com

David Burnett – SCCC Director of Public Relations
David.Burnett@concealedcampus.org

Jim Manley – SCCC Colorado State Director
colorado@concealedcampus.org
303-834-7857 (cell)

Students for Concealed Carry on Campus is a national grassroots organization comprised of over 42,000 college students, faculty members, parents, and concerned citizens who believe college campuses should not be exempt from the same right to self-defense on campus which the law affords to licensed citizens virtually everywhere else. SCCC is dedicated to persuading state governments and school administrators to approve laws and campus policies that will grant all citizens with concealed handgun licenses the right to carry their concealed handguns on college campuses, and to educating the public about firearms, self-defense and college requirements. SCCC is non-partisan and not affiliated with any political party or organization.

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