



January 29, 2010

VIA E-MAIL

Dr. Anthony Frank
Colorado State University
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Re: Comments on the Draft Weapons Policy

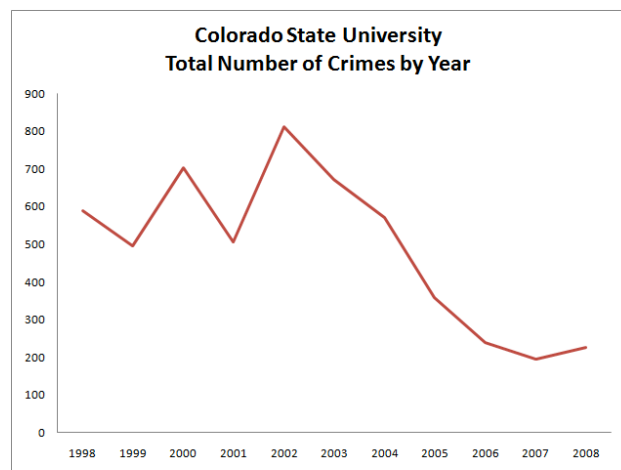
Dear President Frank:

Last year, Colorado State University's Faculty Council recommended the implementation of a Weapons Policy that would ban licensed concealed carry. The Board of Governors has announced its decision to consider a ban on licensed concealed carry.

Students, faculty and staff of the University have every reason to expect that sweeping changes to current policy are backed up by reason and logic, and that when public safety experts issue an endorsement of such a ban, they are using solid research and statistics, and acting in good faith to preserve the safety of their campus population.

No greater disparity between fact and expectation could be imagined.

There has never been a problem with a concealed carry permit holder at CSU. In fact, crime at CSU has plummeted since the introduction of concealed carry. From 1998 to 2000, there were 76 reported sexual offenses. From 2006 to 2008, there were 12. The total number of crimes for the same 3-year period (1998–2000) was 1,788. From 2006 to 2008, the total was 661. According to CSU's own records, rates of crime across all categories have remained steady or declined rapidly since licensed concealed carry on campus became legal in 2003.



Source: CSU Police Department Campus Crime Statistics, 2001 - 2009

Made in a complete vacuum of evidence, the Faculty Council's decision is clearly based on emotions rather than facts. The Faculty

Council voted to ban guns from campus because it would make the Council feel safer, failing to understand the difference between feeling safe and being safe. Banning licensed concealed carry from campus will only disarm law-abiding citizens—those who have taken the time, effort, and money to become trained and licensed to carry a firearm—which will only make campus less safe. Criminals do not respect campus gun bans any more than they respect human life. They do not take great pains to ensure that the weapons they use are in compliance with the law, and they will always seek out the weak and those least able to defend themselves. CSU's proposed ban makes almost everyone on campus weak and defenseless.

Two days before the Board of Governors announced their decision to consider a ban on licensed concealed carry, the Associated Students of CSU passed a resolution recommending the preservation of the current policy, a policy that has been successful for over seven years. They received an outpouring of student support to keep licensed concealed carry on campus. The Board of Governors essentially marginalized the student voice.

After the Board of Governors announced their intention to ban licensed concealed carry, Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) organized a 3-day petition drive at the Lory Student Center with the help of David Kelley, SCCC Campus Leader at CSU, and David Ambrose, a CSU student senator. SCCC collected over 1,200 signatures in just three days. Students were very enthusiastic about adding their signatures. During this drive, organizers encountered multiple students who made special efforts to visit SCCC's table and were eager to add their signature. The petition will be delivered to University officials in the near future. SCCC is an official student organization at CSU, is recruiting members, and will be holding events on campus throughout the semester. It is a chapter of the national group, which represents the opinions of tens of thousands of students, faculty, and staff who oppose college rules that render them defenseless.

SCCC believes that any weapons policy adopted by CSU must make an unequivocal exception for licensed concealed carry. As drafted, the current policy gives broad discretion to the CSU Police Chief to effectively nullify concealed carry permits issued pursuant to Colorado's Concealed Carry Act. C.R.S. § 18-12-201 *et seq.* This is not only bad policy, it is unlawful.

CSU's experience with licensed concealed carry these past seven years clearly shows that the proposed ban on licensed concealed carry is bad policy. The law-abiding individuals licensed to carry a concealed firearm pursuant to state law have been subjected to an extensive background check, confirming that they have never been convicted of a felony, violent crime, or domestic abuse, and have no history of drug/alcohol abuse or mental illness. They have received training in how to safely handle a firearm, as well as when they are legally authorized to use a firearm. They are over 21-years-old and they carry their firearms completely out of sight, concealed under their clothing. The State of Colorado trusts these men and women to act responsibly, and that trust is backed by the perfect safety record for licensed concealed carry on campus at CSU.

Questions of policy aside, CSU's proposed ban on licensed concealed carry is contrary to state law. The Concealed Carry Act expressly states that the General Assembly intended to "occupy the field of regulation of the bearing of concealed handguns . . . and ensur[e] that the laws controlling the use of the [concealed carry] permit are consistent throughout the state." C.R.S. § 18-12-201(1)(e). If this purpose could be more plainly stated, the General Assembly did so by making concealed carry permits "effective in all areas of the state, except as otherwise provided in section 18-12-214." C.R.S. § 18-12-204(1)(b). It reinforced the statewide effectiveness of concealed carry permits by also banning patchwork local regulation of concealed carry. C.R.S. §§ 18-12-201(3), -214(1)(a). CSU's proposed ban would violate C.R.S. §§ 18-12-201(3), -204(1)(b), and -214(1)(a) by making concealed carry permits ineffective on a large portion of public property.

The CSU Board of Governors has made clear that it intends to succumb to peer pressure and institute a weapons policy because it "is consistent with the best practices of other colleges and universities." It does so in defiance of both the student body and the statistics regarding crime on campus. But as the Board attempts to fix a situation that is not broken, it should not also break policy that has worked well. CSU's weapons policy must, at a minimum, make an unequivocal exception for licensed concealed carry. The CSU Police Chief cannot have the authority to nullify concealed carry permits issued pursuant to Colorado's Concealed Carry Act.

Respectfully Submitted By:

STUDENTS FOR CONCEALED CARRY ON CAMPUS