

## **Anti-Campus Carry coalition to present signatures**

BOISE –The Coalition to Keep Guns Off Campus will deliver a petition with nearly 3,000 signatures from Idahoans to the Speaker of the House, Scott Bedke this morning. The petition asks the Idaho House of Representatives to stop weapons from coming on Idaho campuses and to oppose SB1254.

The petition reads: *I ask that you oppose SB1254 and similar legislation in Idaho that would allow people to carry loaded, concealed handguns in certain buildings, in open areas, and in cars and parking lots of college and university campuses. Introducing loaded, concealed handguns on campus will only create an unsafe environment for all Idahoans. Thank you.*

Associated Students of Boise State University Vice President Cassie Sullivan stated “We have signatures of Idahoans from all over the state - from Fairfield to Ammon - who oppose weapons on campus. Every president of our eight state universities and colleges oppose this bill, as well as State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, the State Board of Education, Student Associations and Faculty Senates. There is opposition from law enforcement entities in the state, including Boise Police Chief Mike Masterson and the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association. Failing to involve stakeholders in the creation and drafting of legislation has never sat well with Idaho citizens. In the case of SB1254, there is almost no support from the people who would have to live with the reality of the law.”

At a six-hour hearing in front of the House State Affairs Committee last Friday, testimony was more than four to one against the weapons on campus bill, yet the committee then voted in favor of sending it to the House floor for a vote.

One of the organizers of the coalition, Emily Walton, stated “Out-of-state lobbyists say SB1254 just addresses people with enhanced concealed carry permits on campus. But they’re wrong. Under Idaho law, if you can carry a concealed weapon, you can carry an open weapon. This bill will allow anyone with that permit to wear a weapon openly or simply carry it as they stroll across campus or enter a classroom.”