

Decisions should be made locally, right Boise?

Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News Editorial Board

One of our local state representatives in the Idaho Legislature, Cindy Agidius, told us here on the board earlier this week that she has plans, if re-elected to office Tuesday, to deal with what she termed "loopholes" in legislation passed earlier this year allowing guns on Idaho's college and university campuses.

We feel closing those loopholes would be a monumental waste of her valuable time. That time would be much better spent spearheading an effort to repeal the unwanted and unneeded law altogether.

The controlling party down in Boise, the one Agidius is a member of and the one responsible for this legislation, constantly preaches about government overreach and the tyranny of Big Brother and President Barack Obama for, among other things, daring to try to give all Americans health care - yet that overreach is exactly what took place with the guns on campus bill.

The GOP rammed legislation down the throats of people who didn't want it. Those championing the law, mostly from areas not directly affected by the ramifications of its enactment, locked higher education officials and the law enforcement officers - who are now being forced to deal with the new rules - out of the debate and ignored their concerns. And what we got was illogical, flawed and unnecessary legislation thrust upon us.

If Agidius, who did not vote on the legislation but indicated to the board on Monday she would have voted against it, returns to Boise for another term, we hope she immediately turns her focus to righting this wrong.

If guns truly are needed on Idaho's college and universities campuses, and if they really will make those schools safer - we've already had one "accidental shooting" this fall - then we believe that decision would best be left to the individual schools, their administration, faculty and students, as well as local police. Not a group of state representatives and senators who probably haven't set foot on a university campus in decades, if at all.