

Student Leaders Release Statements Regarding Weapons on Campus Bill

Emily Walton

BOISE - Student leaders from across Idaho released statements this afternoon in opposition to the weapons on campus bill. Student leaders will be asking Governor Otter for a veto of the weapons on campus bill with thousands of petitions and letters from students.

Benaiah Cheevers, President of Associated Students of North Idaho College stated: "North Idaho College has made it clear from students all the way through to the board of trustees that we are opposed to the approval of SB1254. The people of North Idaho are probably the most avid in Idaho for gun rights, but the implementation of SB1254 isn't an appropriate way to facilitate gun rights as I believe allowing firearms on campuses would infringe the safety and security of people of all ages who occupy campuses. I believe logic is our best friend, and I believe firearms should be prohibited from all higher education campuses in the state for best safety and security practices."

Sam Carlson, President of the Associated Students of Lewis-Clark State College stated: "Good policy doesn't change what isn't broken. Each campus has intrinsic knowledge about how best to keep their campus safe, and the decisions should be made by those with that natural and exclusive knowledge base."

Bryan Vlok, President of the Associated Students of Boise State University stated: "Students have made it clear that they don't want weapons on our campus, and as an elected leader I've worked to make sure our legislators know that we are against this bill. The statehouse is ignoring the will of the students who have to live with the reality of weapons in their classroom."

Megan Greco, Vice President of Student Association of College of Western Idaho stated: "This outrageous vote to allow the open carrying of guns on college campuses directly defies the will and wishes of the people to whom it most matters. The legislature ignored the overwhelming opposition from all eight university college and university presidents, the State Board of Education, student organizations, faculty senates, and everyday voters. Who does this legislature represent? The answer is clear: lobbyists, and apparently, themselves."

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."