UNC Chapel Hill Resolution 2016-15. On Calling for the Repeal of a Portion of HB 562

The Faculty Council resolves:

In light of the dangers presented by the carrying of private firearms on campus, and in support of the position taken by UNC-Chapel Hill’s Department of Public Safety, we call upon the General Assembly to repeal that part of section 3 of HB 562 which legalizes removing a firearm from a vehicle parked on campus.

Submitted by [retired faculty representatives].

Comment

In its 2015-2016 session, the North Carolina General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, House Bill 562, which now permits gun owners to remove a handgun from within a closed compartment or container in a locked vehicle parked on campus “in response to a threatening situation in which deadly force was justified.” This resolution is prompted by the following concerns:

1. Firearm deaths were the third leading cause of death in 2010-2014 for all ages in North Carolina (after unintentional poisoning and unintentional motor vehicle traffic deaths).1

2. Firearm deaths were the second leading cause of death in 2010-2014 for ages 18-22 in North Carolina (after unintentional motor vehicle traffic deaths).2

3. In the past 3 years, students have been injured, some fatally, by firearms on and off campus at NCA&T,3 NCCU,4 and WSSU.5

4. In the past year, UNC-CH experienced one lockdown for a report of a firearm on campus in what turned out to be a false alarm.6

5. Law enforcement officials, including UNC-CH Police Chief Jeff McCracken, have

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2 Centers for Disease Control, op. cit.


expressed concern that an armed bystander would make it more difficult for campus police to intervene in a genuine firearm emergency.7

6. In 2008, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) issued a position statement against concealed carry on campus.8

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7 Chief Jeff McCracken, personal communication, July 27, 2015.