



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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2012 SESSION SEN. JUDICIARY
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SUBMITTED BY: Eckstein

February 7, 2012

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

As the Student Body President at the University of Oregon, I write to offer my testimony in strong opposition to SB 1574.

On behalf of the students of the University of Oregon, I urge the Committee to consider the negative impact that SB 1574 would have on the learning environment of the University of Oregon and the safety of our entire community.

A college campus is one of the safest places on the planet, and that safety is vital to the creation of an atmosphere of open and vigorous dialogue and debate. The presence of concealed weapons on our campus runs counter to the very purpose of a college campus to provide safe spaces for the exchange of knowledge. Concealed weapons pose not only real safety risks, but also pose an equally important threat to the feeling of safety for community members. If students cannot feel safe on their campus, then they cannot realize to the fullest possible extent the benefits of their education.

The recent ruling of the Oregon Court of Appeals that consequently allowed the presence of concealed weapons on our college campuses has already struck a blow to the safety of our campus community—to pass SB 1574 would be to move in the wrong direction by taking this decision one step further.

This is not a gun issue, but an education issue. We must protect the unique environment that a college campus provides for students to learn from and engage with one another, and the presence of firearms on our campus conflicts with that cause. I urge the legislature to take action to limit, rather than proliferate, the presence of lethal weapons in our community. Please oppose SB 1574 and take action to support safe learning environments for Oregon students.

Respectfully,

Ben Eckstein

President, Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON (ASUO)

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Suite 4, Erb Memorial Union, 1288 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1288
T (541) 346-3724 F (541) 346-0620 <http://asuo.uoregon.edu>