



**CEASEFIRE oregon**

April 8, 2013

Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Oregon State House of Representatives

Re: Ceasefire Oregon on HB 3009 and HB 3114, Penny Okamoto's Testimony

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today and offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 3009 and in support of House Bill 3114. Ceasefire Oregon strongly supports giving all Oregon public colleges and universities the authority to prohibit firearms, including those carried by concealed handgun licensees.

This Committee should give great weight to the opinions of experts in the field of campus security. The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators has found that there "is no credible evidence to suggest that the presence of students carrying concealed weapons would reduce violence on our college campuses." The organization has concluded that allowing people to carry concealed weapons on college campuses would likely increase homicides, suicides, and reckless shooting incidents on campus.<sup>1</sup>

Campus law enforcement officers are also well positioned to judge the risks and advantages of armed students. In a survey of over 400 campus police chiefs, 86% disagreed or strongly disagreed that "allowing students to carry concealed weapons on campus would prevent some or all campus killings."<sup>2</sup> In a mass campus shooting, like the one at Virginia Tech in 2007, armed civilians present a significant risk to themselves and others. After that event, the Virginia Tech Review Panel's report stated: "If numerous people had been rushing around with handguns outside Norris Hall on the morning of April 16, [2007,] the possibility of accidental or mistaken shootings would have increased significantly. The campus police said that the probability would have been high that anyone emerging from a classroom at Norris Hall holding a gun would have been shot."<sup>3</sup> Under the extreme stress of an active shooter on campus, the untrained civilian shooter poses a grave threat to others. And an Oregon CHL holder is likely to have minimal training, as Oregon law does not yet require any training in actually firing the gun or hitting a target.

Guns on college campuses, including guns carried with state-issued concealed handgun licenses (CHLs), pose a significant risk to college students under the best of circumstances. CHLs do not make gun owners mature or immunize them against risky or unlawful behavior. Allowing guns on a college campus is likely to lead to more gun thefts, which are a key source of guns used in crime.<sup>4</sup> And evidence indicates that gun-owning college students engage in more risky behavior than others. Two studies done by Harvard researchers have shown that college student gun owners (4.3% of the students) are less law-abiding than the average student. Students with guns at school were more likely than the average student to engage in risky behavior (including binge drinking), use cocaine or crack, be arrested for a DUI, vandalize property, and get in trouble with police. Rather than offering a measure of protection, gun ownership among students is associated with behaviors that are likely to put the owners and others at risk for injury.<sup>5</sup>

Protection from sexual assault, particularly for women, is sometimes cited as the reason to allow guns to be carried on college campuses, so it is worth reviewing the circumstances under which such assaults occur most frequently. As reported by the National Institute of Justice,<sup>6</sup> two-thirds of sexual assault victims ages 18-29 have prior relationships with the offender, and a study of college-age victims found that 9 in 10 college victims knew the person who assaulted them.<sup>7</sup> Among college assault victims, a 2007 study found that most were assaulted after voluntarily consuming drugs, alcohol, or both.<sup>8</sup> The committee needs to recognize that assaulted coeds are unlikely to be sober, alert, and walking through an unlit parking garage. They are likely to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, and also to be in a place where the loaded weapon is not immediately at hand. If a victim tries to access her gun under these circumstances, you have

[Please see page 2.]