



Student Government
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government
Legislative Council

October 6, 2022

97 LCR 08 – A Resolution Calling on
the University of Colorado Board of
Regents to Ban Concealed Carry

Sponsored by:	
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A Resolution Calling on the University of Colorado Board of Regents to Ban Concealed Carry Across the University of Colorado System

Resolution History

For more than four decades, the University of Colorado Board of Regents prohibited weapons, including firearms, across all four of the University of Colorado campuses. This policy began in 1970, and for more than 40 years, dictated that all firearms, regardless of permit or carry status, were not allowed.

In March 2012, the Colorado Supreme Court struck down the University of Colorado Board of Regents' policy banning concealed carry on campuses across the CU system. The Court cited the Colorado Concealed Carry Act, which allows permit-holders to carry weapons in all places except some federal properties, elementary and secondary schools, or in buildings with fixed security checkpoints. As a result of this decision, the Board of Regents were forced to repeal their former policy, against their own wishes, thus allowing civilians to carry concealed firearms across all four of the University of Colorado campuses.

This decision resulted in widespread protest from students, staff, and faculty alike. After the decision was made, faculty hung signs on their offices indicating that they would not allow an armed student to attend office hours. Jerry Peterson, Chair of the Boulder Faculty Assembly, told the Boulder Daily Camera that he would cancel class if he discovered that one of his students was carrying a gun (Appendix A).

Protests from students did not subside in the years following the Court's decision. According to the CU Independent, in 2016, students received an alert saying there was an armed man in the Champion's Center on the CU Boulder campus. A student in a lecture just a short distance away reported that "a kid stood up and said 'hey I have a firearm, I'll stand at the door with you and make sure no one gets hurt.'" The student who reported this incident said that she "was surprised someone had a gun in class" and that "knowing that students can have concealed weapons on campus makes her nervous." (Appendix B). Allowing firearms on campus has and will continue to make campus community members feel uneasy.

This discontent continued into 2021, where students once again protested the allowance of concealed firearms on campus. Following the shooting at the Table Mesa King Soopers in March 2021, students took to social media and held rallies on campus calling for greater firearm restrictions, including banning concealed carry once again (Appendix C).

In 2021, the Colorado General Assembly passed SB21-256, effectively restoring the Board of Regents' authority to determine their own policies regarding firearms across the CU system. The University of Colorado Boulder Student Government supported the State Assembly's effort to overturn preemption through 95 LCR 01, "A Resolution in Support of Colorado SB21-256: Concerning Permitting Regulation of Firearms by Local Governing Bodies" (Appendix C).

Per the passage of SB21-256, the issue of concealed carry is now squarely in the hands of the Regents. In 95 LCR 01, the elected student representatives of the University of Colorado Boulder “encourage the Board of Regents and Administration to take necessary measures in ensuring a safe campus environment” and to “not only amplify the needs and demands of our constituents and stand in solidarity with them, but to ensure that students *feel safe*.”

Access to firearms significantly increases the likelihood of injury or death to both the individual in possession of the weapon and those within their communities (Appendix D). On November 9th, 2012, just months after the Board of Regents’ concealed carry policy was struck down, an employee at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus was showing her handgun to her colleagues when she accidentally fired it while trying to unjam it. The bullet ricocheted and struck another employee in the leg (Appendix E).

Those in favor of concealed carry policies on college campuses argue that armed citizens could prevent active harmers from committing violent crimes. However, a study by Johns Hopkins University found that “gun ownership and gun carrying in many states is common, but successful and warranted civilian defensive gun use is relatively rare” and that “legally armed citizens very rarely successfully intervene to prevent or interrupt mass shootings.” The presence of more guns does not equate to greater safety from mass shooters or other active harmers (Appendix F).

Most instances of gun violence on college campuses are not mass shootings. A recent study identified “85 incidents of shootings or undesirable discharges of firearms on college campuses in the U.S. from January 2013 through June 2016. Only two of these 85 incidents (2.4%) involved a shooter on a rampage. The most common incidents were interpersonal disputes that escalated into gun violence (45%), premeditated acts of violence against an individual (12%), suicides or murder/suicides (12%), and unintentional shootings or discharges (9%).” Increasing gun availability in campus environments could make far more common acts of aggression, recklessness, or self-harm more deadly (Appendix F).

Colorado is one of just eleven states in which firearms are allowed on public higher education campuses. Per the Colorado Concealed Carry Act, which was used by the Colorado Supreme Court to strike down the University of Colorado concealed carry ban, all firearms are prohibited on K-12 campuses, concealed or otherwise.

By once again prohibiting firearms on University of Colorado campuses, the Board of Regents will prioritize the safety of all members of campus. Concealed or otherwise, guns have no place on higher education campuses. Further inaction to address this issue reflects a failure of the Board’s commitment to the wellbeing of both current and future generations of students and staff.

Resolution Summary

The University of Colorado Board of Regents must take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and comfort of all members of the University of

Colorado System. Banning concealed carry across all University of Colorado campuses will reaffirm past Regent policy that existed for over 40 years. Students, staff, faculty, and community members alike support this life-saving measure. As the representatives of the student body, the University of Colorado Boulder Student Government calls on the Board of Regents to have the courage to take a stand and prioritize the safety of the communities they govern.

Whereas, the presence of a gun increases the likelihood of injury or death, and;

Whereas, gun violence is an epidemic that affects the University of Colorado community and the United States as a whole, and;

Whereas, students have expressed overwhelming concern regarding the concealed carry policy on campus, and;

Whereas, this measure is supported by the University of Colorado Boulder Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG), and;

Whereas, this measure is supported by the University of Colorado Boulder Staff Council, and;

Whereas, this measure is supported by the Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Boulder Student Government, THAT:

Section 1: The University of Colorado Boulder Student Government calls on the University of Colorado Board of Regents to ban concealed carry across the University of Colorado system.

Section 2: The relevant parties affected by this legislation that shall be notified upon its passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signatures of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without actions by the Tri-Executives are: **the CU Board of Regents, CU System President Todd Saliman, and Chancellor Philip DiStefano.**

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect upon final passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signatures of two (2) Executives or the lapse of six (6) days without actions by the Executives.

Vote Count:

Date **Motion** **Vote**

Rachel Hill
Student Body President

Lucie Nguyen
Student Body President

Chloe Nicklas
Student Body President

Aaditya Pore
President of Legislative Council

Appendix A: [Boulder Faculty Response](#)

Appendix B: Student Protests/comments on campus concealed carry policies

- ❖ [Student discusses feeling unsafe with a member of her class carrying a weapon](#)
- ❖ [Student Protest \(2018\)](#)
- ❖ [Student Protest \(2021\)](#)

Appendix C: [95 LCR 01](#)

Appendix D: Firearms increase the risk of injury or death

- ❖ [Scientific American Research on how more guns affect levels of violence](#)
- ❖ [Harvard Study on Guns and Homicide](#)

Appendix E: [CU Anschutz Shooting](#)

Appendix F: [Study on Firearms on College Campuses](#)