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RESOLUTION REGARDING SENATE BILL 174:

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 174 (“SB 174”), without amendments, would prevent the university from responding to common, known, high risk and high conflict situations involving concealed firearms and knives on university property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents and University of Alaska administration, after careful consideration, have determined that amendments to SB 174 are required to permit critical and timely responses. These include allowing regulation of weapons in the following areas:

- *when a student or employee demonstrates a risk of harm to self or others;*
- *in student dormitories and other shared living quarters, where, unlike private residences, some 60% of occupants are under 21, communal living rules are enforced by student Resident Advisors and UA serves as the “adult,” residents live in close quarters and share facilities such as bathrooms and lounges, students and transient visitors have greater access to rooms, and alcohol is frequently present;*
- *in university facilities housing health and counseling services or other services related to sexual harassment or violence;*
- *during adjudication of staff or student disputes or disciplinary issues;*
- *within parts of facilities used for dedicated programs for preschool, elementary, junior high and secondary students, when such programs are occurring;*
- *with concealed carry permits, since a student or employee carrying concealed in UA common areas, critical infrastructure, classrooms and labs should have some training and knowledge of gun safety and applicable law and be subject to a criminal background check; and*

WHEREAS, the first five of these situations are analogous but not identical to situations in which concealed carry is criminalized under current law; and

WHEREAS, unlike state or municipal laws, university regulations do not extend into the community at large, do not impose criminal penalties, and are required to allow the university to manage areas, situations and people for which the university is responsible; and

WHEREAS, the US Supreme Court has clearly stated that restrictions on firearms in sensitive places such as schools and in government buildings are “presumptively lawful;” and

WHEREAS, university policy and regulations have value even if, like criminal law, they are sometimes circumvented, because policy and regulation allow the university to take preventive action when it becomes aware of a violation that poses a threat of harm; and

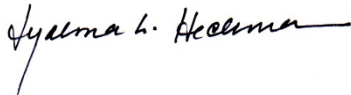
WHEREAS, the bill sponsor and the Senate Education Committee have incorporated some but not all of the amendments requested by the university into a committee substitute bill, and those amendments may still be altered or removed in the legislative process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA:

For the reasons stated herein and many others detailed in position papers, the Board of Regents opposes SB 174 in its current form and respectfully requests that the bill include all of the above amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents respectfully requests that Legislators and the Governor oppose this bill in its current form so that it does not become law, and respectfully urges Alaskans to oppose SB 174 without the requested amendments.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Regents by:



Jyotsna Heckman, Chair