

West Virginia University  
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association  
Assembly Proclamation: AP-2023-01-01  
**An Assembly Proclamation in Opposition to SB 10**

<b>Short Title:</b>	<b>Opposing Campus Carry Legislation</b>
<b>Author(s):</b>	<b>Azeem Khan, President Pro Tempore</b>
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	<b>Devin Price, Senator Matthew Hudson, College Senator (Health Sciences) Brooklyn Milam, College Senator (Health Sciences) Hannah Cait. Guschel, College Senator (Health Sciences) Brogan J Dozier, College Senator (Reed) Madison Santmyer, Senator Avery Conner, Senator Garrett Oursler, College Senator (Davis)</b>
<b>Contributor(s):</b>	
<b>Committee Endorsement:</b>	<b>Government Relations Committee</b>
<b>First Reading Date:</b>	<b>01/18/2023</b>
<b>Second Reading Date:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	
<b>Presidential Signature:</b>	

**Whereas**, the WVU Student Government Association’s mission statement reads, “We, the students of West Virginia University, desire to preserve within our University and the Student Government Association, an atmosphere that helps to... ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected...”; and,

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**Whereas**, West Virginia University’s Student Government Association is committed to prioritizing the interests and safety of the student body of West Virginia University; and,

**Whereas**, Senate Bill 10, the “Campus Self Defense Act,” contains provisions which would eliminate the authority of the institutional boards of governors to restrict or regulate the carrying of concealed pistols or revolvers in certain circumstances or areas of an institution of higher education; and,

**Whereas**, Senate Bill 10, the “Campus Self Defense Act,” contains provisions which would create exceptions to concealed carry on higher education campuses including: at an organized event taking place at a stadium or arena with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators, at a daycare facility located on the property of the state institution of higher education, at the specific location of a formal disciplinary or grievance hearing for a student or an employee of a state institution of higher education taking place on the campus and in the buildings of the state institution of higher education, in specifically designated areas in which patient-care or mental health counseling is being provided, and in on-campus residence halls, except common areas such as lounges, dining areas, and study areas, and other exceptions<sup>1</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, West Virginia University’s Student Government Association has an elected representative on the Board of Governors for West Virginia University; and,

**Whereas**, West Virginia University’s Student Government Association has a productive collaborative relationship with the University’s Board of Governors; and,

**Whereas**, West Virginia University’s Student Government Association trusts the University’s Board of Governors to be the primary decision maker on important rules relating to campus safety; and,

**Whereas**, in the 2008 case of *District of Columbia v. Heller* Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in the majority opinion, “The Court’s opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on... laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings...<sup>2</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill\\_Text\\_HTML/2023\\_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb10%20intr.pdf](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2023_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb10%20intr.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/07-290.ZS.html>

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**Whereas**, at a October 4, 1824 Board of Visitors meeting for the University of Virginia, Founding Fathers Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were present along with four other members of the University of Virginia Board of Visitors to consider rules relating to the conduct of students, including a rule which prohibited the allowance of firearms on the campus<sup>3</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, Jefferson and Madison's support of the rule prohibiting firearms on the campus provides valuable insight into the strong historical precedent of gun-free college campuses in the United States; and,

***Therefore, be it proclaimed by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:***

**Section 1:** opposes the passage of any legislation which will end longstanding prohibitions on the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as college campuses.

**Section 2:** supports maintaining the autonomy of the University's Boards of Governors to serve as the primary decision-maker for matters relating to the allowance of concealed carry .

**Section 3:** supports the position of the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the principal author of the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, in opposition to the allowance of firearms on college campuses.

**Section 4:** acknowledges that SB10 in its current form takes legitimate and serious concerns from University officials into consideration.

**Section 5:** Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

**Mandates:**

E. Gordon Gee, President

The Honorable Jim Justice, Governor of West Virginia

The Honorable Craig Blair, President of the West Virginia State Senate

The Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Mike Woelfel, Minority Leader of the West Virginia State Senate

The Honorable Doug Skaff, Minority Leader of the West Virginia House of Delegates

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<sup>3</sup> <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-04-02-02-4598>

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The Honorable Charles Trump, Senate Judiciary Chairman  
The Honorable Moore Capito, House Judiciary Chairman  
The Honorable Mike Oliverio, West Virginia State Senator District 13  
The Honorable Mike Caputo, West Virginia State Senator District 13  
Rob Alsop, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives  
Travis Mollohan, Director of Government Relations  
G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students  
Sean Manning, News and Information Manager  
Chloe Hernandez, Student Body President  
Morgan Donate, SGA Executive Secretary  
Daily Athenaeum  
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership, SGA Advisor  
Dr. Scott Wayne, WVU Faculty Senate Chair  
Sindupa de Silva, President of WVU Graduate and Professional Student Senate

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