



## Oppose Kentucky House Bill 210 and Senate Bill 103:

### Guns in Schools, on College Campuses, and in Government Buildings

- ❑ **Bottom Line:** The Kentucky legislature is considering two dangerous bills that would force guns onto college campuses and in government buildings and allow guns in K-12 schools. House Bill 210 would create new dangers and huge costs for colleges, overruling the judgment of school safety experts who oppose allowing guns on campus, and would also force guns in public buildings like courthouses and community centers. Senate Bill 103 would allow school staff to carry guns in elementary, middle and high schools, using fear of ‘active shooter’ situations to justify arming civilians. This dangerous policy ignores the actual risks of bringing guns into schools and makes active shooter situations more difficult and dangerous for police. Kentucky lawmakers should protect Kentucky and reject these dangerous bills.
- ❑ **HB 210 would make Kentucky one of the only states in the country to force hidden, loaded guns onto college campuses.**
  - HB 210 would make Kentucky only the third state in the country to allow all permit holders to carry anywhere on campus.<sup>1</sup>
  - Kentucky law currently gives colleges and universities broad authority to prohibit gun possession on their campuses.<sup>2</sup> This dangerous bill would gut this law and force publicly-funded colleges to allow concealed carry permit holders to carry guns on campus and forbid colleges from restricting where deadly weapons can be carried—with no exceptions.
  - This dangerous bill would force guns into sensitive places all over campus—including dorm rooms, classrooms, sports arenas, playgrounds and mental health centers.
- ❑ **States that have recently passed laws forcing guns onto college campuses are struggling to deal with the consequences.**
  - **Idaho’s guns on campus law is costing universities millions.** In 2014, Idaho passed legislation that forced colleges to allow people with “enhanced” permits to carry guns on campus. As a result, five state schools had to request more than \$3.7 million from the state to increase security in the first year alone.<sup>3</sup>
  - **The cost of guns on campus in Arizona was estimated at over \$13 million.** During a 2012 legislative fight, the Board of Regents estimated that allowing guns on campus would cost \$13.3 million in one-time expenses and \$3.1 million in annual costs.<sup>4</sup> The bill was vetoed.
  - **Guns on campus legislation creates new insurance costs for colleges.** In 2011, the Houston Community College Board of Trustees estimated its insurance costs alone could rise as much as \$900,000 per year if a guns on campus bill passed.<sup>5</sup>
- ❑ **Campus stakeholders oppose guns on campus.**
  - **Campus police chiefs:** In a 2008 survey of university police chiefs, 89 percent of the chiefs agreed that the most effective and important way to deal with gun use on campus is to prevent the use of guns at all.<sup>6</sup>
  - **College administrators and faculty:** In surveys conducted in 2013 and 2012, 95 percent of college presidents and 94 percent of college faculty indicated they oppose concealed carry on campus.<sup>7</sup>
  - **College students:** In a 2012 study of students, 79 percent said that they would not feel safe if concealed guns were allowed onto their campuses.<sup>8</sup>



❑ **Colleges and universities, which have traditionally prohibited guns on campus, are relatively safe from gun violence—but campus life is rife with other risk factors that make the presence of guns potentially dangerous.**

- **Campuses are relatively safe:** Among all violent crime against college students from 1995 through 2002, 93 percent of incidents took place off campus.<sup>9</sup> With over 21 million students attending colleges and universities in 2013,<sup>10</sup> only eight gun homicides occurred on campuses.<sup>11</sup>
- **Heavy alcohol and drug use:** A Columbia University study found that half of U.S. college students binge drink or abuse illegal or prescription drugs, while nearly a quarter of college students suffer from substance abuse and dependence.<sup>12</sup> Alcohol leads to impaired judgment about whether to shoot a gun, as well as impaired aim when firing.<sup>13</sup>
- **Mental health issues and suicide:** Nearly 1 out of 10 undergraduates reported “seriously considering attempting suicide” and 1.4 percent had attempted suicide in the past 12 months.<sup>14</sup> At one large public university, 14 percent of undergraduates and 11 percent of graduate students screened positive for depression.<sup>15</sup>

❑ **HB 210 would force guns in sensitive public buildings.**

- Under current Kentucky law, state and local governments may prohibit people from carrying hidden, loaded firearms in buildings they own and operate. This common-sense law lets state and local leaders prohibit guns in sensitive places like courthouses, community centers, city halls, parks department buildings and drug treatment centers.
- HB 210 would strip state and local governments of the power to regulate guns in these places, forcing them to allow concealed carry permit holders to carry hidden, loaded guns. The only places this dangerous bill would allow regulation of guns would be courtrooms and prisons.
- **This dangerous bill would force guns into hundreds of sensitive locations where they could pose a serious threat to public safety.**
  - **Courthouses and statehouses:** HB 210 would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry hidden, loaded guns in the hallways and common areas of criminal, civil and family courthouses. It would also permit people to carry concealed guns in meetings of state and local governments. These are emotionally charged environments in which the presence of a gun can be especially dangerous.
  - **Sensitive government offices:** HB 210 would force parole and probation offices, offices providing child protective services and the offices of the Public Advocate and Attorney General to allow concealed deadly weapons in their offices. Hidden, loaded guns simply don't belong in these places and pose a threat to public servants and the Kentuckians they serve.
  - **Other sensitive places:** HB 210 would also force guns into buildings at public parks, public libraries and countless other government-owned recreational facilities where families often gather. State and local governments should be able to protect the safety of Kentucky families by regulating the carry of firearms in these sensitive places.



- ❑ **These dangerous bills also aim to roll back Kentucky laws that keep guns out of elementary, middle and high schools—despite opposition from school safety experts, who know that guns in schools make students less safe.**
  - Only law enforcement officers and trained security personnel should be allowed to carry guns in schools. Under current Kentucky law, generally only law enforcement officers and military personnel may carry guns in Kentucky’s elementary, middle and high schools.<sup>16</sup> But these dangerous bills would weaken this common-sense public safety law and allow hidden, loaded guns in places children learn and play.
  - SB 103 would create a new exception to the law barring guns from K-12 schools, one that allows any member of the school staff to double as an armed guard. This dangerous bill would allow teachers, administrators and custodians to store and possess loaded guns in schools.
  - HB 210 would also amend Kentucky’s concealed carry law more broadly, striking language that makes clear that a carry permit does not authorize the permit holder to carry hidden, loaded guns in K-12 schools. This poorly-written legislation could lead to confusion about whether all concealed carry permits holders can carry hidden, loaded guns in schools.
  - **Teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns in schools.**
    - The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation’s two largest teachers’ organizations, oppose allowing guns in schools.<sup>17</sup>
    - The federal government’s chief legal, law enforcement, public health, education and emergency management agencies all agree that allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice.<sup>18</sup>
  - **Schools are already extremely safe.**
    - On average, only 1 percent of all homicides of school-age children occur on school grounds, on the way to or from school, or during a school sponsored event.<sup>19</sup>
    - There is approximately one homicide of a school-age youth at school per 1.8 million enrolled students.<sup>20</sup>
    - “Active shooter” incidents, like those at Sandy Hook and Columbine, are extremely rare.<sup>21</sup>
  - **The focus on arming school employees ignores the risks and consequences of bringing more guns onto school grounds.**
    - Everytown has tracked nearly 300 shootings on elementary, middle and high school campuses since 2013. Of those shootings, over 1 in 10 were **unintentional shootings**, and more than 1 in 6 incidents began as **a verbal altercation that escalated** because of the presence of a gun. Introducing guns on school campuses increases the potential for such tragedies.<sup>22</sup>
    - Schools that have allowed employees to carry guns have had difficulty obtaining insurance coverage. Some liability insurance providers have declined coverage to these schools while others have increased premiums, stretching already tight budgets.<sup>23</sup>
  - **The gun lobby uses fear of “active shooter” situations to justify these policies, but arming civilians is not an effective way to stop an active shooter.**
    - Even police officers, with extensive training and frequent exposure to high-risk and life-threatening events, do not always shoot accurately in a crisis encounter. Research casts



significant doubt on the idea that civilians could shoot as well as trained police officers in an active shooter situation.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CO and UT force schools to allow all permit holders to carry. Ten additional states—AK, GA, KS, ID, MN, MS, OR, TN, TX, and WI—require schools to allow guns on campus, but only in some circumstances.

<sup>2</sup> See K.R.S. §237.115.

<sup>3</sup> Campus Safety Magazine, "Concealed Carry Law Costs Idaho Colleges \$3.7M", February 5, 2015, available at: [http://www.campusafety.com/article/conceal\\_carry\\_law\\_costs\\_idaho\\_colleges\\_3.7m/Metal\\_Detection](http://www.campusafety.com/article/conceal_carry_law_costs_idaho_colleges_3.7m/Metal_Detection).

<sup>4</sup> Arizona Republic, Anne Ryman, "Gun bill costly, universities say," March 1, 2012, available at: [http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/USCP/PNI/Valley%20&%20State/2012-03-01-pni0301met-guns-on-campus-costPNIBrd\\_ST\\_U.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/USCP/PNI/Valley%20&%20State/2012-03-01-pni0301met-guns-on-campus-costPNIBrd_ST_U.htm).

<sup>5</sup> Texas Tribune, Christopher Smith Gonzalez, "Guns on Campus Could Cost Colleges," April 27, 2011, available at: <http://www.texastribune.org/2011/04/27/guns-on-campus-could-cost-colleges/>.

<sup>6</sup> Thompson, Amy, et al. "Reducing firearm-related violence on college campuses—Police chiefs' perceptions and practices." *Journal of American College Health* 58.3 (2009): 247-254.

<sup>7</sup> Price, James H., et al. "University Presidents' Perceptions and Practice Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on College Campuses." *Journal of American College Health* 62.7 (2014): 461-469; Thompson, Amy, et al. "Faculty perceptions and practices regarding carrying concealed handguns on university campuses." *Journal of community health* 38.2 (2013): 366-373.

<sup>8</sup> Thompson, Amy, et al. "Student perceptions and practices regarding carrying concealed handguns on university campuses." *Journal of American college health* 61.5 (2013): 243-253.

<sup>9</sup> Carr, Joetta L. "Campus violence white paper." *Journal of American College Health* 55.5 (2007): 304-319, available at: <http://curry.virginia.edu/uploads/resourceLibrary/white-paper.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Estimated figure. National Center for Education Statistics, "Projections of Education Statistics to 2021," Table 20, January 2013, available at [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/projections/projections2021/tables/table\\_20.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/projections/projections2021/tables/table_20.asp)

<sup>11</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, *Analysis of School Shootings*, December 2015, available at: <http://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>

<sup>12</sup> Casa, N. C. "Wasting the best and the brightest: Substance abuse at America's colleges and universities." *New York (US): Columbia University-National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse* (2007).

<sup>13</sup> Wintemute, G. J. (2011). Association between firearm ownership, firearm-related risk and risk reduction behaviours and alcohol-related risk behaviours. *Injury Prevention*, 17(6), 422-427. doi:10.1136/ip.2010.031443

<sup>14</sup> ACHA. National College Health Assessment: Spring 2015 Reference Group Executive Summary. American College Health Association;2015.

<sup>15</sup> Kawa I, Carter JD, Joyce PR, et al. Gender differences in bipolar disorder: age of onset, course, comorbidity, and symptom presentation. *Bipolar disorders*. 2005;7(2):119-125; Eisenberg D, Gollust SE, Golberstein E, Hefner JL. Prevalence and correlates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality among university students. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. 2007;77(4):534-542.

<sup>16</sup> See K.R.S. 527.070.

<sup>17</sup> "AFT, NEA: Arming Teachers Won't Keep Schools Safe, Dec. 20, 2012, available at: <http://www.nea.org/home/53943.htm>.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Department of Education, et.al, "Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, 2012, available at: [http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS\\_k-12\\_Guide\\_508.pdf](http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_k-12_Guide_508.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Digest of education statistics, 2015. Table 228.10: School-associated violent deaths of all persons, homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18 at school, and total homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18, by type of violent death: 1993-93 to 2013-14. National Center for Education Statistics; [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16\\_228.10.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_228.10.asp) Accessed February 2, 2018.

<sup>20</sup> Zhang, A., Musu-Gillette, L., and Oudekerk, B.A. (2016). Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015 (NCES 2016-079/NCJ 249758). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC., at <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2017/2017064.pdf> Digest of education statistics, 2015. National Center for Education Statistics; date unknown. [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15\\_105.20.asp?current=yes](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_105.20.asp?current=yes). Accessed February 2, 2018. In the school year 2013-14, 12 homicides and 8 suicides of school age youth took place at school. In this academic year, 55 million students were enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.

<sup>21</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "School Shootings in America." <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>

<sup>22</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety. Analysis of the Everytown School Shooting Index, Guns in Public Places. <http://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>. Published 2018. Accessed February 2018.

<sup>23</sup> NY Times, Seven Yaccino, "Schools Seeking to Arm Employees Hit Hurdle on Insurance", July 7, 2013, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/08/us/schools-seeking-to-arm-employees-hit-hurdle-on-insurance.html>.

<sup>24</sup> White MD. Hitting the target (or not): Comparing characteristics of fatal, injurious, and noninjurious police shootings. *Police quarterly*. 2006;9(3):303-330; Nieuwenhuys A, Oudejans R. Effects of anxiety on handgun shooting behavior of police officers: A pilot study. *Anxiety, Stress, & Coping*. 2010;23(2):225-233.