

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Subject

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Should college employees be allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus?

According to the nonprofit group Gun Violence Archive (GVA) in 2019, there were more mass shootings than days in U.S. Due to the increase of gun violence at American colleges and universities has revived a subject that has had a huge impact in media coverage since well-known mass shooting; as Columbine, Virginia tech and so on, the debate surrounding concealed weapons on campus. All over the country specialists in public security, parents and students are more than ever before discussing the motion of more guns on campuses to prevent cases of violence.

Many colleges are reviewing their regulations over guns on their campuses after the mass shooting at Virginia Tech University in 2007. Some mention the Second Amendment and the right to legally carry concealed weapons which makes the debate proceed to propose legislation in different states on our Nation's campuses. For example at CSU where the faculty asked for a review of the gun policies. Student representatives at CSU approved a resolution asking the school dean Professor Tony Frank to review the policy allowing people with concealed-weapon on campus. In its case, CSU representatives indicated cases such as the Blue Ridge Community College in Virginia that its policy allows guns since 1995, and Michigan State University that changed its policy in June 2017.

The discussion goes beyond the fact that guns can reduce the violence itself, there is also a discussion towards the safety perception inside campuses. To increase the perception of safety many colleges are implementing safety measures and changes: "These changes include increasing the presence of security technology on campus, such as police alert buttons and email alerts about emergencies, hiring more campus police, and even allowing certain faculty and staff members to carry concealed weapons on campus" (Fox & Savage, 2009; Sulkowski & Lazarus, 2011). Professor Bouffard from the Journal of Criminal Justice Education says that college faculty being allowed to carry guns would help mitigate future attacks.

However, research that tests these policies needs to be done to understand whether they are good uses of resources, and also to determine if they are successful at increasing student and employee perception of safety. There has not been much research to determine whether changing weapon policies reduce violence (Bouffard, Nobles, Wells, & Cavanaugh, 2011). Some research shows the opposite idea of safety.

At CSU and over 2,100 faculty, students, staff and administrators participated in research concerning the free weapon policy. The results indicate over 70 % of respondents are opposed to the option of changing weapon policies on the campus. The majority of students and faculty would feel less safe when they think of more guns on the campus and allowing concealed weapons would serve to decrease the sense of safety as well. Studies like the CSU continue to help the argument that those who live, work, and study at campuses do not want to review gun policies. Even if 23 states allow public and state campuses the decision over their gun policies, almost all have ban weapons policies on campus, according to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

It is a fact that crimes on campuses somehow “strike fear” into the lives of the whole college community and the most feared act of violence is the mass shooting that ranks at the top of the list. Movements are asking to allow faculty and college members to carry guns, however, there is no scientific evidence enough that indicates that more guns less mass shooting, and also, those who are in college do not see the end of guns banning as a way to feel safer on campuses, as the opposite effect could be seen as anyone staff, faculty or student with a permission could enter a campus and a mass shooting could take place.

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