

Unarm-U

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Due to many issues, schools and campuses are facing risk with gun safety. It is a concern to many colleges on what their firearm policies should be for their students. Although students having access to firearms could have the potential to keep people safe for self-defense purposes, there is too much danger to the idea. The danger of letting students have their own firearms overcomes the safety side of it.

The idea of allowing guns on campus would try to limit violence like mass shootings, but it would have no way of preventing them. In fact it would actually increase the risk of violence. Research from many colleges has shown that allowing guns would lead to more nonfatal shootings, and more threats with a firearm on college campuses. Giving students access to weapons increases the possibility of shootings, homicides, and suicides. The gun lobby claims that guns on campus is a Second Amendment issue, but the Supreme Court disagrees because they say that “the people have the right not just to keep but to bear arms.”

The National Rifle Association (NRA) began to put in place rules that colleges must allow firearms on campus in 2008 after the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007, which killed thirty-two people and the Northern Illinois shooting in 2008, which killed five. Now the majority of states either prohibit guns on campus or they give colleges the option to decide for themselves whether or not to allow students to have a hold of firearms. Only sixteen states give colleges and universities the decision to allow firearms individually. These states include: Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, and West

Virginia. Although some states that prohibit firearms on university property have exceptions for weapons in vehicles or public areas. The few states that have forced guns on their campus have no proof that it has had any impact on preventing mass shootings.

Regardless of whether or not guns are allowed on a campus, mass shootings can happen anywhere at anytime. We need to focus on being able to improve student safety on a college campus without allowing them to bring more firearms onto the campus. If people could improve safety protocols and monitor what students have and carry rather than add to what students have access to, it could potentially reduce some of the danger and risk students are in. Some of the safest colleges can find themselves in danger. On Tuesday November 15, 2022, CNN posted an article about a shooter at the University of Virginia. After a bus with a group a children on a class field trip returned to the main campus, five students were shot. Three of them who were football players were shot dead and the other two people were wounded. This shows that not all colleges are fully protected because according to CNN the University of Virginia is actually one of the safest colleges.