



Student Government Resolution 116.019

**A Resolution in Opposition to Missouri Senate Bills 589 and 731, House Bills 1910 and 2698
Sponsored by Senior Senator Matt Cooper and Legislative Director Caitlyn Bess**

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The Missouri General Assembly is currently considering bills that would allow carrying concealed weapons on college campuses, provided the individual has obtained a concealed carry permit; and
- These bills neither leave an alternative to allowing concealed carry on University campuses nor an alternative that is fiscally possible; and
- The Truman State Student Government organized a well-attended public forum, where Sara Holzmeier, Director of the University's Department of Public Safety, informed students about current Missouri law related to concealed carry and answered student questions; and
- The Student Government organized a well-attended debate to air both sides of the issue and answer student questions; and
- After these educational efforts, Student Government conducted a survey of the approximately 5,850 Truman students, which received 1,646 responses; and
- 89% of students surveyed stated that they were familiar with the proposed changes prior to taking the survey; and
- This survey found that students substantially oppose this bill, with 64% saying they do not believe people should be allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus, and 25% believing they should; and
- As the minimum age for concealed carry in Missouri is 19, the majority of students at Truman State University are able to obtain a concealed carry license; and
- Every state that currently allows concealed weapons on University campuses has a higher age requirement than Missouri¹, making these proposed changes unprecedented nationally; and
- Truman State University already fields a fully trained, armed police force that is tasked with managing campus safety; and
- The size of Truman State's campus is not large enough to prohibit the Department of Public Safety (DPS) from being able to respond quickly and effectively to any crisis situation that could occur; and

¹ Idaho only allows 18-21 year olds to obtain a CCW license with the individual approval of the Sheriff.

- DPS officers receive training in active shooter response, an area of training not included in typical firearm safety courses; and
- Research shows that laws allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons do not reduce the number of mass public shootings²; and
- Research has also shown that gun ownership is related to a higher rate of suicide³; and
- Truman State University students are more likely to report incidents of major depression, have suicidal thoughts, or attempt suicide than other college students in Missouri⁴; and
- In the cases of Senate Bills 589 and 731, and House Bill 1910, those with concealed carry licenses would be able to carry their concealed firearms in private residence halls; and
- Combining high levels of anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts with allowing students more unfettered access to firearms presents a dangerous combination that ultimately undercuts the bills' goal of increasing student safety.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- That the Student Government opposes the passage of Missouri Senate Bills 589 and 731; and
- Opposes the passage of Missouri House Bills 1910 and 2698.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to the Truman State University Board of Governors, University President Troy Paino, The Director Department of Public Safety Sara Holzmeier, Missouri State Senator Brian Munzlinger, Missouri State Senator Bob Dixon, Missouri State Senator David Sater, Missouri House Representative Nate Walker, Missouri House Representative Jared Taylor, Missouri House Representative Mike Kelley, Vice President of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist, the Truman Media Network, and the Department of Special Collections.

Passed on April 3, 2016

Approved 12-4-2-6-1

Molly Ann Turner

President of the Student Association

² Duwe, Grant, Tomislav Kovandzic, and Carlisle E. Moody. 2002. "The Impact of Right-to-Carry Concealed Firearm Laws on Mass Public Shootings." *Homicide Studies* 6(4): 271-296.

³ Miller, Matthew, Deborah Azrael, and David Hemenway. "Household Firearm Ownership and Suicide Rates in the United States." *Epidemiology* 13(5): 517-524.

⁴ 2015 Missouri College Health and Behavior Survey