

# GUN FREE UT

Gun Free UT is a grassroots organization of UT faculty, staff, students, alumni, and family members committed to preserving the University of Texas-Austin as a safe and welcoming institution of higher learning.

SB11, the "campus carry" law, allows license holders to carry concealed handguns throughout university campuses starting August 1, 2016. Will guns be allowed in all rooms and buildings? This hasn't been decided yet. President Fences established the SB11 Working Group to recommend implementation policies by the end of November. *Make your voice heard!*

## **Get armed... with reason:**

**Concealed carry permits do not decrease crime:** There is no statistically significant correlation between changes in concealed carry licensing and crime rates. Armed citizens rarely successfully defend themselves in mass shootings or during other crimes; in fact, in several mass shootings an armed citizen nearly endangered other bystanders, instead. (Phillips 2015, J Criminology; everytown.org)

**Suicide** is the second-leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 24. But college student suicide rates have actually been *lower* than the general population since 1960 *because firearms were effectively banned from campuses.* (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; Schwartz 2006, J Am Coll Health)

**The majority of Texans are opposed to Campus Carry:** 63% are opposed to allowing college students to carry concealed handguns onto college campuses. 72% are opposed to allowing college students to bring concealed handguns into the classroom. (March 2015 SurveyUSA News Poll)

**Who's going to pay for Campus Carry?:** The UT System says it will pay more than \$39 million to further train campus police, add personnel, build gun storage facilities, purchase equipment and signage, and update security systems. (Houston Chronicle, Feb 2015)

**Guns have a chilling effect on the free speech and free discourse that are the core of UT's mission.** Students must feel comfortable asking questions and discussing complex, charged topics. Faculty and staff must be able to challenge students to engage with difficult subjects. Family members need to be confident that UT is protecting their loved ones. Guns in classrooms and offices erode the foundation of higher education.

## **Our purpose:**

- To express to Pres. Fences and the Working Group the need for the most restrictive implementation of SB11 possible. *No guns in classrooms, offices, or dormitories.*
- To work toward the repeal of SB11.
- To work toward making UT a completely gun free campus and a safe place for free inquiry for the entire UT community.

***Hook 'em, don't shoot 'em!***

## **What you can do:**

**Attend and speak:** SB11 Public Forums on 9/30 & 10/5 (info: [campuscarry.utexas.edu](http://campuscarry.utexas.edu))

**Connect:** [www.gunfreeut.org](http://www.gunfreeut.org) Facebook (Gun Free UT) Twitter (@gunfreeut)

**Sign the Petition:** [Change.org](http://Change.org) (search "gunfreeut")

**Organize!**