

Date of testimony: **February 13, 2018**

Bill Number: **HB 2042**

Testimony by: **ALANA HOLLAND**

Yourself OR Organization/Business: **SELF**

In support/ Neutral/ In opposition: **IN OPPOSITION**

Limiting the carrying of guns on college campuses is the TRADITIONAL, CONSERVATIVE POSITION.

On October 4, 1824, in a document by the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, signed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, members declared that “No Student shall, within the precincts of the University... keep or use weapons or arms of any kind, or gunpowder.” Even students who engaged in military training were required to use "substitutes in the forms of arms.”

If James Madison, a primary author of the Constitution, thought that it was still in line with the Constitution to prohibit firearms from university campuses, we should agree that the Founding Fathers did not originally intend the 2nd Amendment to apply to the carrying of guns on university campuses. The Founding Fathers went on to write:

“Fighting with weapons which may inflict death, or a challenge to such fight, given or accepted, shall be punished by instant expulsion from the University.”

I think we can all agree that guns of any sort may inflict death. SEC commissioner Greg Sankey recently said that athletic opponents "will decline opportunities" to play at Ole Miss and Mississippi State if pending legislation which would legalize the concealed carrying of weapons at sporting events is allowed to pass in the state of Mississippi. Even members of the NRA have spoken out against Mississippi's legislation, explicitly citing the dangers of mixing alcohol and emotion which often lead to fights.

Even reasonable people who are otherwise careful about safety do not always have the best judgment and may not always be able to control their tempers in the heat of the moment.

College campuses are places where young people often heavily drink and are prone to passionate disagreements and feelings regarding a range of topics from sports to relationship problems to politics and religion. I ask why the Republicans of the Kansas Legislature want to introduce more guns, carried by younger people who are more likely to be in situations that could lead to hostility?

It is clear that the FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND AUTHORS OF THE US CONSTITUTION believed that the 2nd Amendment did, indeed, have LIMITS. If James Madison and Thomas Jefferson thought so, we should trust them. As most university students remain under the age of 21, we should trust that the Founding Fathers did not intend for them to be allowed to carry guns on campus.