

Another U.S. State Allows College Students and Professors to Carry Guns in Classrooms



Topeka, August 24 (RHC)-- The U.S. state of Kansas has begun to allow students and professors to legally carry concealed handguns on college campuses. The concealed carry law was enacted in 2013 in the Kansas state legislature and applied to all public buildings, but universities in the Midwestern state were exempted until now. Faculty and students 21 and older can now carry a concealed handgun on Kansas university campuses.

Kansas is joining the states of Georgia, Arkansas and several other states with laws that allow students and faculty to carry guns on college campuses.

The concealed carry law has prompted some faculty members to leave state universities. "I am looking for another job," said Philip Nel, an English professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan. "I will not teach armed students, because that's crazy."

A 2015 survey by the Kansas Board of Regents Council of Faculty Senate Presidents found that 70 percent of faculty and staff wanted to change the Kansas law to ban guns on campus. The Kansas law was enacted with the goal of allowing potential targets of gun violence to defend themselves with their

own weapons, even though higher gun ownership has been linked to more violent crimes and overall homicide.

Numerous studies have found that gun ownership is directly associated with gun-related homicides, and homicide by gun is the most common type of homicide in the United States. Firearm assaults were 6.8 times more common in U.S. states with the most guns versus states with the least, according to a recent study by researchers at Harvard University.

About 29 percent of Americans own one or more of the estimated 300 million firearms in private hands in the United States, according to Columbia University researchers.

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