

Friday, December 9, 2016

Governor John R. Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43125-6117

Dear Governor Kasich,

We are writing on behalf of the Ohio Faculty Council to express our reservations regarding House Bill 48 which would allow concealed-carry permit holders to carry handguns in currently restricted places including college campuses.

The Ohio Faculty Council is recognized by the Chancellor and the Ohio Department of Higher Education and represents the faculty at all of the four-year public universities in Ohio. We have espoused strong and consistent faculty influence at the state level on issues and policies related to higher education and address concerns common to faculty members of Ohio's four-year public universities.

In December 2015 the Ohio Faculty Council adopted a resolution (available at: https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/ofc/docs/OFC-HB48-Resolution_Dec2015.pdf and included with this letter). This resolution notes that the free and open exchange of ideas is a fundamental component of the mission of public higher education in the State of Ohio and such exchanges are facilitated by environments that are violence-free. It further recognizes that if individuals engaged in these exchanges could legally possess handguns, it would significantly and negatively impact the dynamic of those discussions and the value of higher education in Ohio.

It has been and continues to be our firm opinion that the current law has served the state well and has contributed to an atmosphere on college campuses that allows the free and open exchange of ideas that is a fundamentally important component of higher education's mission.

Accordingly, we respectfully ask that you veto any legislation such as House Bill 48 that would allow concealed-carry permit holders to carry handguns on college campuses in Ohio.

Sincerely,



Dan E. Krane, PhD
Chair, Ohio Faculty Council



Chet Cooper, PhD
Vice Chair, Ohio Faculty Council