



Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Statement by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, and the Institutional Leadership of the University System of Georgia

January 26, 2010

We believe that current Georgia law, which creates school safety zones where firearms are not permitted, is very clear and has served the students, faculty, and staff of the University System of Georgia well. We are deeply concerned about proposed legislation that would permit firearms on our campuses; in our classrooms, residence halls, fraternity houses, student centers, and parking lots; and at our athletic and other public events. We do not think this promotes a safe learning environment for our students or is in the best interest of the state or of the University System.

We ask that you keep in mind that our institutions work very hard to recruit the best faculty, staff, and students across the state, the nation, and the world. The best faculty, staff, and students always have choices about where they work or attend school. Higher education is a reputation-driven industry. We believe that changing the current law prohibiting weapons on campus would have a very adverse effect on our competitive position and on the safety and well being of our students, faculty, and staff.

Our unanimous recommendation is to retain the current, unambiguous statute with respect to school safety zones as it stands. However, if new legislation is adopted, we respectfully ask for a specific exemption for University System institutions.

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