

TAKE ACTION!

LEGISLATIVE ALERT – SB2376/HB1736 and SB1991/HB2131,
LEGISLATION PERMITTING GUNS ON PUBLIC COLLEGE CAMPUSES WILL BE
HEARD **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH AT 3:30 PM CENTRAL.**

We need to mobilize our community to contact the Senate Judiciary Committee members and ask them to vote “**NO**” on **SB2376/HB1736 AND SB1991/HB2131** that would compromise the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on college campuses. The presence of concealed firearms will only increase the public safety risk to college campuses and are inappropriate in an educational setting.

Tips on Writing a Legislator

Emails and letters are an effective way to communicate with legislators. Writing to your Senator or Representative is not as daunting as it may seem. They want to hear from you! One contact from a constituent could represent the voice of hundreds and is an effective way to influence policy change. Your goal should be to make your legislator believe as passionately on an issue as you do.

The following are tips when writing to a legislator:

1. Make it personal and be respectful.
 - Address your legislator by his or her official title (i.e., Dear Senator Smith, Dear Representative Johnson...).
2. Describe yourself and status.
 - For example, identify yourself as a constituent and/or your role with the University
3. Personalize your relationship.
 - The more you can personalize your relationship with the legislator, the stronger your letter will be.
 - If you have ever met the legislator, briefly mention this in your letter.
4. Identify your issue.
 - Only identify a maximum of two issues.
 - If writing about a specific bill, describe it by number or popular name.
 - State the status of the bill if available (i.e., “...to be heard in [X] committee on [date]”).

A policy brief has been developed that you can use to familiarize yourself and others with the issues and distribute. The brief is attached.

5. Clearly state a viewpoint.
 - Present your request, opinion, or position thoroughly, yet concisely and definitively.
 - Provide a concrete statement of reasons for your position with factual information (i.e., statistics, graphics, real-life stories...)
6. Quality—not quantity.
 - Members of Congress receive many letters each day. A long letter may not get as much attention as reading a brief statement.
7. Ask your legislature to take action.
 - Let your legislator know how they can help you and thank them in advance for considering your issue.
8. Include your address and phone number in your signature.
9. For emails, include the bill number and your request in the subject line.
 - i.e. “Please vote “no” on SB2376/HB1736 guns on campus legislation.”
10. Follow up.
 - After you have contacted your legislator, follow up on what they did.
 - If your legislator voted the way you wanted, send a thank you note.

Additionally, do your homework and know the legislative process! Just as your time is limited, so is a legislator’s. Be sure to know your bill numbers, the issues, and have your facts ready. Understand the steps a bill must go through to become a law. *See the diagram at the end of this document.*

Below are the Senate Judiciary Committee members and contact information:

Committee Member	Email	Phone Number
Senator Brian Kelsey	sen.brian.kelsey@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-3036
Senator Doug Overbey	sen.doug.overbey@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-0981
Senator Janice Bowling	sen.janice.bowling@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-6694
Senator Mike Bell	sen.mike.bell@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-1946
Senator Todd Gardenhire	sen.todd.gardenhire@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-6682
Senator Lee Harris	sen.lee.harris@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-1767
Senator Sara Kyle	sen.sara.kyle@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-4167
Senator Kerry Roberts	sen.kerry.roberts@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-4499
Senator John Stevens	sen.john.stevens@capitol.tn.gov	(615) 741-4576

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Tennessee

