Florida Atlantic University

Student Government

Boca Raton House of Representatives

5th Legislative Session

BRHR-11-06

“Support for SB 234”

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WHEREAS: Florida State Bill 234 reads in part: "An act relating to firearms; limiting a prohibition on carrying a concealed weapon or firearm into an elementary or secondary school facility, career center, or college or university facility to include only a public elementary or secondary school facility or administration building; providing that concealed carry licensees shall not be prohibited from carrying or storing a firearm in a vehicle for lawful purposes."

And;

WHEREAS: The right to self-defense is a fundamental right. The U.S. constitution, the constitutions of 44 states, common law, and the laws of all 50 states recognize the right to use arms in self-defense. Right-To-Carry laws respect the right to self-defense by allowing individuals to carry firearms for protection.

And;

WHEREAS: Criminals do not observe gun free zones.

And;

WHEREAS: Gun free zones are not crime free zones.

And;

WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University is not a crime free zone.
And;
WHEREAS: Florida is not a crime free zone.

And;
WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University is a public university primarily located in Boca Raton, FL, where the crime rate ranks #300 highest in the country, based on FBI Crime Statistics (http://os.cqpress.com/citycrime/2010/City_crime_rate_2010-2011_hightolow.pdf)

And;
WHEREAS: As of the most recent Clery Act report from the FAU Police Department, 2009, there were four forcible sex offenses pertaining to the Boca Raton campus in a campus building or on campus property.

And;
WHEREAS: As of the most recent Clery Act report from the FAU Police Department, 2009, there was one robbery pertaining to the Boca Raton Campus in a campus building or on campus property.

And;
WHEREAS: As of the most recent Clery Act report from the FAU Police Department, 2009, there were 27 burglaries pertaining to the Boca Raton campus in a campus building or on campus property.

And;
WHEREAS: As of the most recent Clery Act report from the FAU Police Department, 2009, there were 12 motor vehicle thefts pertaining to the Boca Raton campus in a campus building or on campus property.

And;
WHEREAS: As of the most recent Clery Act report from the FAU Police Department, 2009, there were no weapons law arrests pertaining to the Boca Raton campus.

And;
WHEREAS: There are no barriers to enter any Florida Atlantic University campus by foot, car, or watercraft.
And;

WHEREAS: Text message alerts do not ensure safety.

And;

WHEREAS: Campus police are not in every building at all entry points at all times students and/or faculty may be present.

And;

WHEREAS: Law abiding students and faculty are rendered defenseless when commuting from home to campus and back again, and anywhere in between.

And;

WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University’s campuses range from Fort Pierce to Davie, encompassing three counties and over 100 miles of distance.

And;

WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University is primarily a commuter school, placing commutes at a disadvantage should they find themselves in a dangerous situation after being forced to leave their defense weapon at home.

And;

WHEREAS: Only concealed weapon permit holders would be able to carry a firearm on campus.

And;

WHEREAS: Concealed weapon permit holders undertake great care in completely concealing from view their firearm and holster.

And;

WHEREAS: Everywhere a person goes off campus, with few exceptions, are accessible by concealed weapon permit holders.

And;

WHEREAS: A person may encounter dozens of concealed weapon permit holders daily and not know whether they are carrying a firearm or not.

And;

WHEREAS: All concealed weapon permit holders have had full background checks and firearm safety training.
WHEREAS: No one under age 21 is able to obtain a concealed weapon permit.

And;

WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University does not allow funding for firearm education using Activities and Service fees. NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Florida Atlantic University Student Government, and the student body at large, fully supports SB 234. Florida Atlantic University hereafter shall not hinder the constitutional rights of its students or faculty pertaining to the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Student Government shall issue a press release upon passage of this bill to all major news media outlets outlining the support for SB 234 utilizing the facts presented above. This press release will also announce the end of the ban on Activity and Service Fees from going to weapon-related activities.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Florida Atlantic University shall grant Activity and Service fees to Student Government entities, clubs and sports teams for the purpose of gun safety education and firearm use for purposes of self-defense and the shooting sports that are recognized by the National Shooting Sports Federation. These events must utilize an NRA certified instructor to be eligible for funding.