

Addressed to:  
Dr. Beverly Warren  
President - Kent State University  
PO Box 5190  
Kent, OH 44242-0001  
330-672-2210  
president@kent.edu

## YOUNG AMERICANS *for* LIBERTY

Kent State University

Dear Dr. Beverly Warren,

Our student group, Young Americans for Liberty (YAL), has been active on campus for over two years, advocating for the individual, civil, and constitutional rights of students and all Americans. During this time, we have protested and denounced many actions of the university that we believe infringe on students' individual rights, including the banning of tobacco use on campus. We are also staunch advocates of the First Amendment and appreciate the University's continual dedication to free speech, free assembly, and free exercise. I am writing you regarding the Kent State University policy regarding deadly weapons (Policy Registrar 5-22), and our group's belief that it violates the individual and Constitutional rights of students, staff, and faculty.

According to Ohio Senate Bill 199, passed in 2016,

*"A valid license does not authorize the licensee to carry a concealed handgun into any of the following places: Any premises owned or leased by any public or private college, university, or other institution of higher education, . . . unless the licensee is carrying the concealed handgun pursuant to a written policy, rule, or other authorization that is adopted by the institution's board of trustees or other governing body and that authorizes specific individuals or classes of individuals to carry a concealed handgun on the premises."*

This law gave the university full authority to authorize licensed concealed weapon holders to lawfully carry on campus. The university has failed to amend the university

policy to allow students, staff, and faculty to exercise their inalienable right to self-defense.

According to the Ohio Constitution's Bill of Rights, Section 4, "The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security...." Under Ohio Revised Code 9.68,

"The individual right to keep and bear arms, being a fundamental individual right that predates the United States Constitution and Ohio Constitution, *and being a constitutionally protected right in every part of Ohio*, the general assembly finds the need to provide uniform laws throughout the state regulating the ownership, possession, purchase, other acquisition, transport, storage, carrying, sale, or other transfer of firearms, their components, and their ammunition. Except as specifically provided by the United States Constitution, Ohio Constitution, state law, or federal law, a person, without further license, permission, restriction, delay, or process, may own, possess, purchase, sell, transfer, transport, store, or keep any firearm, part of a firearm, its components, and its ammunition."

In 2010, the City of Cleveland challenged the State of Ohio, citing its home rule authority, in an attempt to restrict firearms within the city. The Court of Appeals for Cuyahoga County ruled that, "We hold that R.C. 9.68 is a general law that displaces municipal firearm ordinances and does not unconstitutionally infringe on municipal home rule authority." In *Ohioans for Concealed Carry Inc vs City of Clyde* (2008), the Ohio Supreme Court ruled, "Clyde City Ordinance No. 2004-41, which prohibits licensed handgun owners from carrying concealed handguns in Clyde city parks, is a valid exercise of the municipality's home-rule power according to Section 3, Article XVIII, of the Ohio Constitution. Because the ordinance is an exercise of the municipality's police power that conflicts with a general law, the ordinance is unconstitutional."

Under Ohio Revised Code 3345.011, a state university is defined as, "a public institution of higher education which is a body politic and corporate." The ORC also defines municipalities, with over 5,000 residents, as corporations. Based on the definitions and rights defined by the ORC, we believe that University Policy 5-22 (D)(1)(2) "Enforcement" is a violation of Section 3, Article XVIII, of the Ohio Constitution.

We, the undersigned, request that the University amend Policy 5-22 to allow students, staff, and faculty; who are concealed weapon license holders; to carry firearms on campus in their own self-defense, as ascribed by law.

In Liberty,

Kevin Cline

Chapter Secretary – Young Americans for Liberty, Kent State University

Ohio State Chair – Young Americans for Liberty

2017-2019 Undergraduate Student Government Senator for the College of  
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Harrison Sorm

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Former Chapter President – Liberty Hangout at Kent State University

Former Chapter President – Turning Point USA, Kent State University

Former Executive Board – Young Americans for Liberty, Kent State University

2017-2019 Undergraduate Student Government Election Commission

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2017-2018 Undergraduate Student Government Senator for the College of Nursing

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Alyssa Waler  
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Harrison Sorm  
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Seth Miller  
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Hunter Sorm  
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Joshua McCracken  
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Adam Miller  
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Brendan Bennett  
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President – 2014-2015 Kent State College Libertarians