



NASPA's Statement regarding Guns on Campus

Violent events in our nation's schools and on our college campuses have once again elevated firearm safety to the top of public policy agendas. As an association of professionals who work daily with college and university students, members of NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education firmly believe that safe, open campus environments are critical for student learning, development, and success. Therefore, NASPA supports thoughtful and common sense steps to reduce the threat of gun violence on our college and university campuses.

Student affairs practitioners are invested members of our nation's community of educators. As such, we acknowledge and support the statements on gun safety offered by college and university leaders through the *College Presidents for Gun Safety* [open letter](#) to policymakers, the important work of colleagues and advocates through the [Enough is Enough](#) initiative to stem violence, and the leadership of chief student affairs officers in Texas through the [Council of Student Services Vice Presidents](#). In concert with these efforts, and many others, NASPA encourages federal and state policymakers to take action on gun control.

As an association, NASPA does not oppose gun ownership. However, in many of the states where our member institutions are located, a number of bills have been introduced or passed that allow, or expand eligibility for, individuals to possess guns on college campuses. NASPA firmly opposes such laws.

While further violence on our nation's college and university campuses cannot be fully prevented through gun safety measures alone, we believe that increasing the number of firearms in the hands of students, faculty, staff, and visitors presents an increased risk to our communities.

NASPA believes that firearms on campus are most appropriately limited to recruited, trained, and supervised police officers (federal, state, local or university police) or participants in institutionally endorsed educational programs for which use and carry of a firearm is a necessary requirement. Additionally, relying on trained professionals to safeguard students, staff, faculty, and campus visitors leads to a reduction in the likelihood of unintended consequences of increased exposure to firearms.

A safe, supportive campus environment is a precursor to the learning and personal growth at the center of college and university life. As the nation continues to place increased importance on college-going, we believe it must do so in an environment that reduces the presence of guns on campus and increases campus safety.

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