

To the State Senators of Mississippi:

As educators from colleges and universities across Mississippi, we, the undersigned, wish to be heard on HB 1083, which would override the ability of schools to prohibit guns in non-public campus spaces, including classrooms. We believe it would be a sabotage to education—to its effectiveness and its safety—to allow guns in the classroom.

All across higher education, teachers are training students in critical thinking, intellectually and emotionally rigorous engagement, and problem-solving skills. For the student, these activities aren't always easy or comfortable, nor should they be. Sometimes students become frustrated. Sometimes they even get angry. If the student is—or might be—carrying a gun, the dynamic shifts dramatically. While this legislation would be specific to enhanced concealed carry permit holders, any classroom with a gun is a very different classroom than one without a gun. A classroom with a gun ceases to be an environment where teachers or students can feel safe engaging in the sorts of stimulating and challenging discussions that are the hallmarks of higher education. This is not an education that will prepare our young adults to boldly take their places in the world.

The following educators from Mississippi's colleges and universities ask to be armed only with a safe environment by keeping guns out of the classroom. Please vote down HB 1083.

Thank you,

Beth Ann Fennelly, University of Mississippi

Catherine Pierce, Mississippi State University

Michael Kardos, Mississippi State University

Bill DeJournett, University of Mississippi

Leigh Anne Duck, University of Mississippi

Vivian Blair Hobbs, University of Mississippi

Mary Hayes, University of Mississippi

Erin Drew, University of Mississippi

Monika Bhagat-Kennedy, University of Mississippi

Lindy Brady, University of Mississippi

Chris Offutt, University of Mississippi

Sarah Sgro, University of Mississippi

Daniel Novak, University of Mississippi

Tom Franklin, University of Mississippi

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Bret Pimentel, Delta State University

Mike Smith, Delta State University

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Jason Solinger, University of Mississippi

Hannah Rigby, University of Mississippi

Ian Whittington, University of Mississippi

Judith Coleman, Delta State University

Lauren Coker-Durso, Delta State University

Garry Jennings, Delta State University

Chunhui Ren, Delta State University

Ellen Foster, University of Mississippi

Thomas Laub, Delta State University

Jamie Dahman, Delta State University

Cristin Ellis, University of Mississippi

Susan Allen, University of Mississippi

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Michael Rowlett, University of Mississippi

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Matthew Lavine, Mississippi State University

Kate Centellas, University of Mississippi

Jennie Frost, University of Mississippi

Eric Vivier, Mississippi State University

Andrea Spain, Mississippi State University

Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University

Patrick Creevy, Mississippi State University

Tommy Anderson, Mississippi State University

Ann Fisher-Wirth, University of Mississippi

Max Hipp, University of Mississippi

Holly Johnson, Mississippi State University

Ted Ownby, University of Mississippi

Bridget Smith Pieschel, Mississippi University for Women

Catherine Lacey, University of Mississippi

Peter DeGabriele, Mississippi State university

Conor Dowling, University of Mississippi

Carolyn Elkins, Delta State University

Kelly Moser, Mississippi State University

Gray Kane, Delta State University

Peter Wong, University of Mississippi

Richard Boada, William Carey University

Don Allan Mitchell, Delta State University

Sally Gray, Mississippi State University

Jennifer Mizenko, University of Mississippi

Allison Burkette, University of Mississippi

James G. Thomas Jr., University of Mississippi

Jo Ann O'Quin, University of Mississippi

Kendall Dunkelberg, Mississippi University for Women

Jeff Smithpeters, Delta State University

Susan Allen Ford, Delta State University

Wendy Atkins-Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi

Eric Delp, University of Mississippi

Laura Antonow, University of Mississippi

Chatham Kemp, William Carey University

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Lara Dodds, Mississippi State University

Nora Corrigan, Mississippi University for Women

Alison Greene, Mississippi State University

Bryan Hilliard, Mississippi University for Women

Lara Avery, University of Mississippi

Aimee Nezhukumatathil, University of Mississippi

Jennifer Childs, Mississippi State University

Leslie Stratyner, Mississippi University for Women

Jamie Mixon, Mississippi State University

Emily Stinson, Mississippi State University

Jaime Harker, University of Mississippi

Otis W Pickett, Mississippi College

Rory Ledbetter, University of Mississippi

Christian Pinnen, Mississippi College

Tamara Warhol, University of Mississippi

Stephanie Rolph, Millsaps College

Becca Walton, University of Mississippi

Maureen Meyers, University of Mississippi

Katie Turner, University of Mississippi

Adam Gussow, University of Mississippi

Ellie Campbell, University of Mississippi

Kate Kellum, University of Mississippi

Gregory Love, University of Mississippi

Marcos Mendoza, University of Mississippi

Melissa Ginsburg, University of Mississippi

Amie Irwin, University of Mississippi

Christine Rizzi, University of Mississippi

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Bradley Jones, University of Mississippi

Gerald Rowland, University of Mississippi

Margaret Hagerman, Mississippi State University

Shonda Allen, Jackson State University

Margaret Ralston, Mississippi State University

Frederick Hunter, Tougaloo College

Stacy Haynes, Mississippi State University

Jennifer Carruth, Mississippi State University

Rachel Allison, Mississippi State University

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Sarah Wilson, University of Mississippi

Patricia O'Sullivan, University of Mississippi

Kathryn McKee, University of Mississippi

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Angela Ball, University of Southern Mississippi

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Megan Smith, Mississippi State University

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Rosy Nigro, Mississippi State University

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