



Office of the Chancellor
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
Post Office Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Dear Governor Patrick:

You have asked me to appear and give my position on the issue of campus carry in an upcoming State Affairs Committee hearing. I am writing you because I am unable to appear in person, as our Board of Regents is meeting at the same time.

I have encouraged my presidents NOT to become involved in issues other than critical funding issues that are so important to our students, universities and agencies. These issues include:

- (1) Restoring formula funding to the FY 2010-2011 appropriated levels,
- (2) Funding Hazlewood costs,
- (3) Funding the Competitive Knowledge Fund or its successor, and
- (4) Funding critical capital projects.

I cannot speak to the effect campus carry would have on other institutions and their students. However, I have complete trust and faith in our students. Having licensed gun owners in possession of legal weapons on our campuses does not raise safety concerns for me personally. The real question is this: "Do I trust my students, faculty and staff to work and live responsibly under the same laws at the university as they do at home?" Of course I do! However, properly funding the higher education of these students is the only issue that counts!

This is my personal opinion. The Texas A&M University System will not have a position on this issue, and will not oppose campus carry. We look forward to working with you as this issue moves forward in the Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Sharp
Chancellor

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Lt. Governor Patrick response

cc: The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
The Honorable Rodney Ellis, Senator, District 13