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*Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in Opposition of HB780*

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March 8, 2022

I am a member of multiple gun rights organizations. I am a certified Range Safety Officer and an avid firearms collector. I oppose HB780.

This bill creates a blanket ban on firearm possession at any public institution of higher learning, with carve outs for law enforcement and private security hired by the school. This is overly broad. There is also no reason for this ban.

Furthermore, the ban in privately owned housing used for student housing is absurd. Presumably an individual may choose privately owned housing to avoid many restrictions placed on school owned housing. This may particularly affect older students such as myself, graduate students, and others in similar situations. This bill would strip all of these individuals of their right to self defense even within their own home, while doing nothing to ensure their safety.

Attend a university in a rural area where you wish to hunt? Too bad, you aren't allowed to possess any firearms, even for that purpose. Live in a neighborhood of privately owned student housing that tends to have high crime and wish to defend yourself? Too bad. Now you get to hope you are able to call the police, that they respond, and get there in time.

Additionally, gun free zones are targets for those who wish to do harm to others. It is well known that criminals often target gun free zones, knowing they will be faced with defenseless victims. Posting signs and creating more gun free zones will simply make more students vulnerable to attack, even if that is only simple robbery, a scary enough experience.

Because of these and many more reasons, I request an unfavorable report.

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