January 27, 2014

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

As the President of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho, I respectfully share my concerns regarding the campus gun legislation. I urge you to vote no, as this bill removes the ability of our institutions to set their own policies.

The residential campus of U of I is a unique environment among the institutions of higher education in Idaho. With the diversity of campuses across our state, each institution has their own considerations regarding campus policies that are best addressed at the institutional level. Further, our campus is the home of many students, and I believe our institutions should retain the right to set policies about what we allow into our house.

The conversation about permitting individuals to carry their firearms onto our campus is vital, and one in which students have a wide range of opinions. While consensus is difficult, I can say that students do support the ability to engage in dialogue about this issue. In order for the student input from this dialogue to have a meaningful impact, our respective institutions must retain the ability to make these decisions in consultation with students.

I appreciate your time, and thank you for your careful consideration of these thoughts. I look forward to continued conversations as this bill progresses, and would encourage you to discuss this bill with the ASUI Lobbyist, Ashley Morehouse, if you have more questions about the students’ thoughts.

Sincerely,

Max Cowan
President of the Associated Students University of Idaho