

**Jacksonville State University Faculty Senate**  
**Resolution on Alabama House Bill (HB-12) 2016**  
**February 23, 2016**

WHEREAS, Jacksonville State University's Mission "strives to challenge students academically in a responsive environment, meeting students' educational, career and personal goals", and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville State University's Core Values include the "support of intellectual and academic freedom, dialogue, and the free exchange of ideas", and

WHEREAS, a majority of faculty believe that firearms on campus can impede open dialogue, debate, and the free exchange of ideas in a responsive, academic environment devoid of intimidation or coercion, whether actual or perceived, and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville State University Police Department's Mission seeks to "ensure that all faculty, staff, students, and guests are free from criminal, potentially criminal, or otherwise disturbing or threatening behavior that would prevent or discourage a safe and efficient work and study environment", and

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide a safe learning and working environment, Alabama colleges and universities, in conjunction with their respective campus law enforcement agencies, should have the freedom to create, analyze, and implement security strategies best suited to their unique campus environment and culture without dictation from state agencies or legislative bodies unfamiliar with that unique environment, and

WHEREAS, according to Fall 2014 JSU statistics, the average undergraduate student age is 22.9, and

WHEREAS, the age limit to apply for a concealed weapons permit in the State of Alabama is 18, and

WHEREAS, through vast experience in education, it has become known that students within the abovementioned age ranges, with an unknown array of previous life experiences, possess varying levels of maturity, impulse control, decision-making skills, and firearms training required to effectively carry and utilize firearms for personal or public protection, and

WHEREAS, the Alabama House Bill 12 2016 (HB-12) provision stating that “*the president or other chief executive officer of a public institution of higher education shall adopt reasonable rules regarding the carrying of concealed pistols by permit holders on the campus of the institution. The president or officer may not adopt rules that generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting permit holders from carrying concealed pistols on the campus of the institution*” is vague and open to future and uncertain interpretation, and

WHEREAS, the Alabama House Bill 12 2016 (HB-12) contains a provision that allows “*public or private institutions of higher education to establish rules concerning the storage of pistols in dormitories or other residential facilities*” and while the dormitories at Jacksonville State University are not designed nor contain the proper equipment or staff needed to safely and properly store firearms, and the installation of such storage equipment, needed for the safety of all students, will cause the university to incur significant costs, and thus, in essence, creates an unfunded mandate from the state.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Jacksonville State University Faculty Senate, with an eye to faculty majoritarian sentiment, opposes Alabama House Bill 12 and any other legislation that would preempt a public educational institution's right to prohibit or regulate possession of firearms on campus.