



*The United Faculty of Florida at the University of South Florida*

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## **USF Faculty Union Opposes College/University Gun Carry Bill**

**TAMPA, Fla. ---** Yesterday, the faculty union at the University of South Florida opposed legislation permitting adults with conceal carry permits to carry guns on Florida college and university campuses.

“HB 4005 and SB 176 would introduce a threat to public safety at USF, and we strongly recommend against the passage of this legislation,” read the resolution by the USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida. House Bill 4005 and Senate Bill 176 are the two parallel bills that would delete current provisions “... prohibiting concealed carry licensees from openly carrying a handgun or carrying concealed weapon or firearms into college or university facility.”

“Even though this legislation is being sold as a safety measure, the people responsible for the safety of students, faculty and staff – namely the presidents of the universities and

their police chiefs – strongly oppose this legislation,” said Chapter President Art Shapiro, who is also a professor of education specializing in education leadership.

Supporters of the legislation claim that students and faculty need guns in order to protect themselves and others from criminals. But the announcement that the resolution would be placed before the Chapter observed that “...it is not clear that a gun-carrying non-professional would be able to deal with the sort of crisis (e.g., a gunman on campus) that supporters of this legislation envision.” The announcement noted that citizens with conceal carry permits do not have training comparable to those of policeman: “In one way, a gun is like a musical instrument: a piece or situation that would challenge a professional is beyond the reach of an amateur.”

Faculty feedback focused on a different concern: that with students already facing problems with alcohol, suicide, and sexual and nonsexual bullying and abuse, adding guns to the mix could be dangerous. “Faculty have written to the union that they are very anxious about having armed students in their classroom – not just because of the safety issue but also because of intimidation,” said Chapter Secretary Greg McColm. “Some faculty have even said that they may leave Florida if the bills pass.”