

After the numerous tragic rampages that have occurred on college and university campuses, some observers have suggested that the tragedies could have been avoided or stopped if even one student had been armed and able to defend himself or herself with a firearm. Others have suggested that if firearms are allowed on college and university campuses, even if such rampages could be prevented, the rate of homicides and violence will rise due to students routinely carrying firearms. States have historically restricted the exercise of individual gun rights in varying forms. These restrictions have, often times, taken the form of banning firearms on college and university campuses. Across America, state legislators have annually introduced bills pertaining to the “guns on campus” issue, and 2011 was no exception. In fourteen states, legislators introduced bills to allow licensed individuals to carry concealed weapons on campus. Additionally, in two states, legislators introduced bills to explicitly forbid individuals from carrying concealed weapons on campus. All sixteen bills failed. This note will analyze and discuss various cases and legislation pertaining to the individual right to possess firearms for self-defense and personal security in the college and university campus setting. After considering the current Second Amendment jurisprudence, this Note will discuss potential standards of review applicable to firearm regulations on public, but not private, college and university campuses.