

Robin Mower, Durham—testimony OPPOSING HB1793, January 14, 2026

HB1793

Title: prohibiting public colleges and universities from regulating the possession or carrying of firearms and non-lethal weapons on campus.

First, I find it astounding that Prime Sponsor Farrington has submitted this bill, given his passionate concern about youth suicide—despite overwhelming evidence connecting suicide and guns, particularly for men.

Second, the very presence of guns on a campus will chill intellectual discourse and social engagement—which are key components of any college campus activity.

Third, I urge you to read carefully the testimony of Paula Salvio, from Durham. (I do not know her, haven't even heard her name.) Her testimony is backed by professional expertise. I have copied and pasted it here, in case you missed it the first time around:

“Paula Salvio, Durham (opposed)—Below are key concerns I have regarding the presence of firearms on college campuses:

1. Elevated Suicide Risk: College students experience high rates of mental health challenges. Research indicates that the presence of firearms significantly increases the likelihood of successful suicide attempts, as 85% of such attempts with a gun are fatal.

2. Increased Risk of Accidental Harm: College Classrooms are often crowded, and backpacks are frequently moved or dropped. These environments increase the risk of accidental discharges, which can cause injury or death in densely populated spaces.

3. Interference with Law Enforcement: In the event of a high-stress situation or active shooter, the presence of multiple armed civilians can create confusion for responding police officers, potentially leading to tragic errors in identifying the real threat.

4. Lack of Evidence for Increased Safety: There is no credible evidence suggesting that allowing students to carry concealed weapons reduces campus violence. Conversely, studies suggest that increased gun availability is a risk factor for homicide and non-fatal shootings.”