

As a professional historian, I wish to share pertinent information with the members of the State Legislature in their deliberation on HB2042

One justification for requiring universities to permit firearms on campus is rooted in the idea that the Second Amendment does not permit any limitations on citizens carrying weapons. However, the historical record on this point holds an unequivocally different position.

On October 4, 1824, the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia--the equivalent of the Board of Regents of Kansas today--issued rules against "keep[ing] and us[ing] weapons or arms of any kind, or gunpowder," anywhere on campus or in its environs. Students who drew weapons, either offensively or defensively, were subject to "instant expulsion from the University" and were reported to civil authorities for prosecution under the law. Notably, even for the required military training, students were required to use "substitutes in the forms of arms," which were owned by the university and which were distributed only for drill.

The six signators of these rules against firearms on campus included Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

James Madison was the primary author of the Constitution. If he held that prohibiting firearms on university campuses is consistent with the Constitution, we should trust that it is, in keeping with the principle of following the original intent of the Founders.

If James Madison and Thomas Jefferson thought that prohibiting firearms on campus was wise policy, we should accept their guidance.

Thus, prohibiting guns on campus is the traditional, conservative position.

Meeting Minutes University of Virginia Board of Visitors, 4 October 1824

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-04-02-02-4598>



Eve Levin

1317 Jonathan Ct.

Lawrence, KS 66049

785-865-4380