

**AN OPEN LETTER TO UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON BOARD OF REGENTS;  
UH SYSTEM PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR, RENU KHATOR;  
MEMBERS OF THE UH WORK GROUP, AND UH SGA PRESIDENT,  
SHAUN THERIOT-SMITH**

November 5, 2015

We the undersigned are a confederation of University of Houston students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends who stand in opposition to S.B. 11 “Campus Carry” which has been visited upon us by the Texas legislature this year and due to take effect August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We recognize the law has been signed.

We know that S.B. 11 is now the law and that we are legally bound to uphold it. However University of Houston System President and Chancellor Renu Khator is granted within the law the ability to reasonably prohibit the carrying of lethal weapons in our classrooms, our offices, and our dormitories. We therefore call upon our President to do so.

In addition, as citizens of a nation that guarantees free speech and as members or supporters of an institution that guarantees academic freedom, we will rightfully participate in the long American tradition of principled dissent from dangerous and unjust laws.

Therefore, we state our opposition to S.B. 11 in the strongest terms possible. We know from the empirical evidence that guns on campuses can yield horrendous results. A review of the published accounts of mass shootings on college campuses since 1966, shows an unequivocally clear pattern: every shooter was a student or faculty member at the campus where the killings took place and in all – except two cases – the killers owned the weapons they used to gun down their instructors, colleagues, and peers. These were not crimes by outsiders but by those with routine familiarity with their victims. Moreover, there is broad consensus among scientists studying gun violence that gun violence in our culture is now at epidemic proportions, as reported by Dr. David Hemingway, Harvard School of Public Health and Director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center in his recent LA Times Op-ed.

The gun culture of the United States crossed a line and stepped into our classrooms, our offices, and our dormitories with the passage of S.B.11. As University of Houston students, educators, staff, alumni, parents, and supporters,

we will continue to say NO to guns on campus no matter what the laws say until the public health crisis created by the NRA and their allies for unfettered firearm use in the U.S. is under control. We will talk, teach, and march to demand the safety of all UH constituents and visitors. We will reach out to our legislators, to our UH alumni among business and religious leaders, and to others in the wider UH community on as many fronts as we are able to, and will work in solidarity with them to oppose S.B. 11 until it is repealed.

We, therefore, call upon our Governor-appointed Board of Regents, our President and Chancellor, the appointed members of the UH Work Group, and our elected SGA student body president, to stand with us for a safe and gun-free campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Barb Bikoff, Supporter, UH  
Dr. Joanna Friesen, Professor Emeritus, UH  
Dr. Aaron Gillette, Prof., History, UHD  
Ms. Kate DeVore, Supporter, University of Houston  
Annette Zapata, Student, Hispanic Studies, UH  
Ms. Nancy Harkins, Alumni, University of Houston  
Alex Colvin, Student, History, University of Houston  
Dr. Allison Yakel, Fellow, University of Houston  
Prof. Cheryl Beckett, Art, University of Houston  
Prof. Sibylle Hagmann, Art, University of Houston  
Ms. Helaine Wolf, Supporter, University of Houston  
Dr. Hildegard Glass., Chair, Mod. & Cl. Lang, UH  
Ms. Jamie Ford, Alumni, University of Houston  
Jeremy Longwell, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Carlos Naranjo, Student, Hispanic Studies, UH  
Dr. Nancy Beck Young, Professor, History, UH  
Ms. Suzy Chandler, Supporter, University of Houston  
Ms. Norri Leder, Alumni, University of Houston  
Ms. Samantha Smith, Student, Geo. Wash. U.  
William Meck, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Dr. Sharin Elkholy, Prof., Philosophy, UHD  
Laura Jimenez, Student, Hispanic. Studies, UH  
Bruno Rios, Grad. Student, Hispanic Studies, UH  
Dr. A. Henry Eliassen, Prof., Sociology, UHD  
Ms. Kristin Bird, Supporter, UH  
Aggie Forouhideh, Student, Art, UH  
Ms. Alexandra Chasse, Supporter, UH  
Miriam Valencia, Student, Theater, UH  
Dr. Anita Chadha, Prof., Political Science, UHD  
Dr. Ann Christensen, Assoc. Prof., English, UH  
Ms. Laura Cizek, Alumni, University of Houston  
Dr. John L. Snyder, Professor, Music, UH  
Annette Zapata, Student, Hispanic Studies, UH  
Mr. Benjamin Daily, Alumni, University of Houston  
Mr. Bud Winn, Supporter, University of Houston  
Mr. Ernest Arciniegas, Supporter, UH

Dr. A. Ying Qin, Asst. Prof., Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Bridget Fernandes, MA, Prof., UH Clear Lake  
Carolina Villarroel, Dir., Arte Publico Press, UH  
Dr. Fabrizio Gabbiani, Prof., Baylor College of Medicine  
Dr. Ann C. Christensen, Assoc. Professor, UH  
Ariana Peruzzi, Student, English, University of Houston  
Prof. Karen Stokes, School of Theatre & Dance, UH  
Ms. Catherine Nance, Alumni, University of Houston  
Ms. Emily Keown, Supporter, Moms Demand Action  
Dr. Francesca Behr, Prof. Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Arielle Akines, Student, Hispanic Studies, UH  
Dr. James K. Martin, Professor, History, UH  
Jeffrey Bradley, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Dr. Jeremy May, Prof., Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Dr. Hannah S. Decker, Prof., History, UH  
Sylvester Turner, Alumni, University of Houston  
Nestor Narvaez, Staff, CNRCS, University of Houston  
Dr. Sally Vaughn, Professor, History, UH  
Ms. Victoria Peña, Supporter, University of Houston  
Ms. Tatiana Zecher, Supporter, University of Houston  
Lauren Christlieb, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Brandon Wilke, Senator, SGA C.L.A.S.S., UH  
Bhavya Tiwari, Asst. Prof., CCS Studies, UH  
Ms. Adriana Rubin, Supporter, University of Houston  
Dr. Abdel R. Takriti Assoc. Prof., History, UH,  
Ivan Arteaga, Student, History, University of Houston  
Ms. Alexandria Lane, Supporter, University of Houston  
Andrew Douglass, Student, D & I Sci., UH  
Amy O'Neal, Dir. Assessment & Accred Svcs., UH  
Lauren Lohman, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Lisa Cruces, Assistant Librarian, University of Houston  
Dr. Annalisa Quaini, Prof., Math, University of Houston  
Ms. Ava Robson, Supporter, University of Houston  
Dr. Azar Rejaie, Prof., Art History, UHD.  
Dr. Casey Hackney, Prof., Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Sylvia Fernandez, Student, Hispanic Studies, UH

Ms. Lisa Brooks, Alumni, University of Houston  
Dr. Sandy Frieden, Lecturer, Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Lauren Thawley, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Ms. Sofia Peruzzi, Parent, University of Houston  
Monica Gonzalez, Student, Cur. & Inst., UH  
Jesus Palacios, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Prof. Sara Becker, Theater, University of Houston  
Ms. Robin Horn, Supporter, University of Houston  
Dr. Cesar Seveso, Lecturer, History, UH  
Ms. Claudia Schmuckli, Dir. Blaffer Gallery, UH  
Nicholas Daily, Student, Philosophy, UH  
Ms. Lockie Baugh, Supporter, University of Houston  
Dr. Robert Zaretsky, Prof., History, Hon. College, UH  
Ms. Christa Forster, Alumni, University of Houston  
Dr. Claudine Giacchetti, Prof., Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Daniel Cardoza, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Dr. David Blecher, Prof., Math, University of Houston  
Ms. Dawn Armstrong, Supporter, UH  
Delaney Catlettstout, Student, Political Science, UH  
Ms. Edith Torrez, Alumni, UHD  
Ms. Ellen Leventhal, Supporter, UH  
Ms. Emily Sewell, Supporter, UH  
Enrique Garza, Student, Art, University of Houston  
Ms. Jennifer Reese, Alumni, UH  
Asst. Prof. Keliy Anderson-Staley, Art, UH  
Dr. Suncica Canic, Prof., Math, University of Houston  
Dr. Monica Ercolani, Prof., Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Ms. Joy Cutler, Supporter, University of Houston  
Justn Etheridge, Supporter, Student, GWU  
Dr. Richard Armstrong, Prof. Cl & Mod Lang., UH  
Mr. Ernesto Wartenberg, Supporter, UH  
Ms. Hegidio Narvaez, Supporter, UH  
Dr. Irina Perepelitsa, Lecturer, Math, UH  
Ms. Jasmine James, Alumni, University of Houston  
Dr. Rachel Quinn Asst. Prof., CCS, UH  
Prof. Natilee Harren, Art, University of Houston  
Dr. Michael Fares, Prof., Mod. & Cl. Lang., UH  
Prof. John Reed, Art, University of Houston  
Prof. Delilah Montoya, Art, UH

Roxana Dominguez, Student, Art, UH  
Ms. Norah Adams, Alumni, University of Houston  
Maria C. Gutierrez, Student, University of Houston  
Dr. Raul Ramos, Assoc. Prof., History, UH  
Ms. Naomi Wolffe, Supporter, University of Houston  
Ms. Oralia C. Sarabia, Alumni, University of Houston  
Dr. Robin F. Davidson, Prof., English, UHD  
Ms. Susan Gorman, GNP, Supporter, UH  
Dr. C. E. Goodin-Mayeda, Asst. Prof., H. Studies, UH  
Dr. Roberto Tejada, Prof., English, UH  
Leslie Holland, JD, Alumni, UH Law Cntr.  
Dr. Mabel Cuesta Assoc. Prof., H. Studies, UH  
Dr. Margot Backus, Prof., English, University of Houston  
Dr. Christina Sisk, Assoc. Prof., Hispanic. Studies, UH  
Ms. Cristina Adams, Supporter, University of Houston  
Ms. Darlene Bohaski, Supporter, University of Houston  
Prof. David Pulitzer, Art, University of Houston  
Ms. Dawn Fudge Alumni, University of Houston  
Ms. Edith Adamson, Supporter, University of Houston  
Ms. Elaine Makris, Supporter, University of Houston  
Dr. Dina Al-Sowayel, Prof., Women Studies, UH  
Elliott Keymolen, Student, Finance, UH  
Jaye Ramsey-Sutter, JD, Supporter, HCCS.  
Dr. Anne Kane, Assoc. Prof., Sociology, UHD  
Prof. Carolyn Houston-Boone, Acting & Theater, UH  
Mr. Stefan Malhotra, Supporter, Alumni, UT  
Ms. Judy Adams, Parent, University of Houston  
Dr. Johanna Luttrell, Visiting Scholar, UH  
Dr. Keith McNeal, Prof., CCS, University of Houston  
Dr. Richard Murray Prof., Pol. Sci., UH  
Estefany Nerio, Student, Hot. & Rest. Mgmt., UH  
Dr. Hervé Picherit, Prof., College of Lib. Arts, UT  
Ms. Jenny Johnson, Supporter, UH  
Gerald Smith, Student, English, University of Houston  
Dr. Ritu Mathur, Prof., University of Texas  
Dr. Martha Serpas, Prof., English, University of Houston  
Dr. Jorge Montoya, Lect., Hispanic Studies, UH  
Prof. Fiona McGettigan, Art, University of Houston  
Jewel Gallagher, Student, Art, University of Houston