



To: The New Hampshire State Senate; President, Sen. Peter Bragdon; Majority Leader, Sen. Jeb Bradley; Minority Leader, Sen. Sylvia Larson; Sen. Amanda Merrill, District 21

Dear Senators,

The University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate represents approximately 2300 full-time and part-time graduate students. Our membership is concerned about the New Hampshire House of Representatives' recent passage of *HB 334: An act relative to the state's authority to prohibit or regulate firearms, firearms components, ammunition, or firearms supplies*. The vast majority of our constituents oppose this bill on the grounds that a proliferation of concealed lethal weapons on campus undermines the atmosphere of trust that is the foundation of an effective learning environment. The graduate students of UNH feel that the students who reside and work on campus should be allowed to determine how best to make our campus a safe place to learn, work and live.

As detailed in the attached UNH Graduate Student Senate resolution, we recommend that the Senate amend HB 334 to include an exemption for USNH institutions.

Sincerely,

The UNH Graduate Student Senate

Bob Swarthout, President

Daniel Budak, Vice President

John McClain, Treasurer

Ian Cohen, USNH Board of Trustees Representative

Emily Klein, Programs Coordinator

Michael Staley, Clerk

UNH Graduate Student Senate

124 Memorial Union Building Durham, New Hampshire 03824-3594

Website: [www.unh.edu/gss](http://www.unh.edu/gss) E-mail: [Grad.Student.Senate@unh.edu](mailto:Grad.Student.Senate@unh.edu)

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate  
Resolution 2011:7  
January 6, 2011

**A Resolution to Exempt Academic Institutions from NH HB 334**

WHEREAS in January, 2012 the New Hampshire house of Representatives passed HB 334: An act relative to the state's authority to prohibit or regulate firearms, firearms components, ammunition, or firearms supplies;

WHEREAS passage of HB 334 would eliminate the ability of any state supported entity, including the University of New Hampshire, to regulate the possession of firearms or related equipment on its campuses unless exempted in statute;

WHEREAS those who live and work on campus, the University administration, campus security and UNH students, have expressed concern over the effects that passage of HB 334 would have on the safety of the UNH community;

WHEREAS the University has done an effective job of maintaining a safe, non-violent atmosphere that promotes mutual trust between students, faculty, staff and the community without a proliferation of concealed lethal weapons;

Be it RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire advises the members of the New Hampshire State Senate to provide a statutory exemption in HB 334 for academic institutions, allowing the campus community to decide how to best keep UNH a safe and inviting place to live, work and learn.