

Dear Governor Otter,

March 3, 2014

Every president of our eight state universities and colleges oppose SB1254. The State Board of Education opposes it. Student associations oppose it. Faculty senates oppose it. There is nearly unanimous opposition from the major law enforcement entities in the state, including campus security chiefs. None of these stakeholders were involved in the creation of this bill, and they think it's a terrible idea.

Out-of-state lobbyists say SB1254 just allows people with concealed carry permits on campus. But they're wrong. Under Idaho law, if you can carry a concealed weapon, you can carry an open weapon. This bill will allow anyone to wear a weapon or simply carry it as they stroll across campus or enter a classroom. I don't want that.

Nearly anyone can get a concealed weapons permit; in fact, in Idaho two students have been murdered off campus by permit holders. As you know, Senator Bart Davis' son was murdered by a permit holder, and a few years ago a U of I student was murdered by a permit holder.

Justice Scalia wrote in the *Heller* case that "nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on the longstanding ...laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings..." In the *McDonald case*, Justice Alito added that the laws prohibiting weapons in schools and government building are valid and that the Court "repeat[s] those assurances here."

Finally, this bill imposes central control from Boise instead of leaving it in the hands of the people who run the campuses. When debating a similar bill in 2011, Senator Brent Hill said removing that local control was another case where lawmakers "demonstrate that our lips preach local control, but our hearts are far from it."

When Tom Luna pushed the unwanted "Luna laws" through, Idahoans responded by overturning them. Failing to involve stakeholders in the creation and drafting of legislation has never sat well with Idaho citizens. In the case of SB1254, there is almost no support from the people who would have to live with the reality of the law, and their voices are being ignored.

Your veto would restore the faith that Idahoans want to have in their elected leaders - the faith that they will be listened to, and heard.

I respectfully ask that you veto Senate Bill 1254.

Signed:

Print name:

Full Address: