Texas A&M Personal Protection Bill

"A bill to allow the right to self defense on the Texas A&M campus."

Whereas(1): Texas A&M University is a gun-free zone as mandated by state law and university policy; and,

Whereas(2): Many of the most horrifying mass shootings of innocent citizens in the United States of America have occurred in inappropriately labeled gun-free zones; and,

Whereas(3): Designating an area gun-free does not deter an individual with the intent to commit criminal activity from illegally carrying a firearm onto campus; and,

Whereas(4): Criminals are given a governmental and university guarantee that any potential victims are unarmed and that they may prey upon the student body, faculty, staff and guests completely unopposed; and,

Whereas(5): Texas A&M University professors and staff, who teach and work on campus on a daily basis, are forced to be unarmed and defenseless under current university policy; and,

Whereas(6): The college police departments are by necessity reactive, not proactive entities and cannot effectively safeguard all within the university at all times as proven by the numerous crimes that occur on and around campus every semester; and,
Whereas(7): In accordance with Texas Penal Code 46.03 subsection 1, students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license (CHL) are allowed to carry a concealed firearm on the campus grounds but must disarm prior to entering any building belonging to Texas A&M University; and,

Whereas(8): Texas A&M University written policy seeks disciplinary action against students, faculty, and staff who are in accordance with state weapons laws; and,

Whereas(9): In accordance with Texas Penal Code §46.03 subsection 1, individual universities may adopt their own written policies to allow persons with a valid concealed handgun license to carry within the buildings and on the grounds of their respective campus; and,

Whereas(10): Seventy-one Campuses in the United States, with a student enrollment of approximately two percent of nationwide college students, allow concealed carry on campus and have yet to experience a single resultant: negligent discharge, other gun accident, criminal misuse of a firearm, suicide, or any other negative effect whatsoever despite hundreds of consecutive semesters of allowing concealed carry; and,

Whereas(11): Texas concealed handgun license holders undergo an extensive screening process, including: State and Federal background checks for both criminal and psychiatric records, must have attended a ten to fifteen hour training course dealing with topics such as conflict resolution and handgun safety; must pass a fifty question exam on the course material, must pass a fifty rounds firearm qualification test almost identical to that of Texas peace officers, and must be over twenty-one years of age, among many other requirements; and,

Whereas(12): Because of such standards, Texas concealed handgun license holders are the most law-abiding Texans in the state, with a crime rate more than seven times lower than the general public according to the Texas Department of Public Safety; and,
Whereas(13): Seeing a need for self-preservation against criminals, rapists, and mentally unstable persons, we seek change in state law and Texas A&M University policy.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1): That the Student Government Association, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M University, calls for a written policy of Texas A&M University to allow students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license the right to self-defense not just outside the campus building walls, but within those confines as well; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted(2): That the Student Government Association, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M University, calls upon the legislature of the State of Texas to change current law to allow students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license the right to self-defense on all University property, including buildings and residence halls, and to prevent public universities from creating policies seeking disciplinary action against students, faculty and staff who are in accordance with state law; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted(3): That copies of this legislation shall be presented to members of the Texas Legislature and to the leadership of the Texas A&M University System.