

Department of Modern Languages  
Response to Campus Carry Law in Texas

The Department of Modern Languages is strongly opposed to the carrying of concealed firearms within buildings on our campus. We believe that the presence of concealed firearms within our classrooms and offices, and within campus buildings more generally, will lead to an increased risk of injury and death to everyone within these spaces. The Department aligns itself with the Modern Language Association, whose joint statement together with nearly thirty other learned societies condemns SB 11 for the potential threats to personal safety, free speech, and academic freedom that it represents, and with other Texas State University departments which hold that SB 11 is unconstitutional in that it violates the First Amendment rights of faculty and students to free speech. In our Department, students learn about different countries, cultures, people and communities, and frequently discuss ideologically charged topics. The Department believes that SB 11 will lead to self-censorship and self-silencing in the classroom, as well as to the avoidance of open and productive discussion of sensitive topics. The Department furthermore believes that the presence of concealed firearms within our campus buildings will be detrimental to attracting and retaining high quality faculty and students, and that this will adversely impact Texas State University's efforts to achieve eligibility for National Research University Funding and recognition as a Research University.