

[Today's Date]

Newspaper Name

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XXX, NC

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Dear Letters Editor,

I am writing in support of the North Carolina Campus Safety Bill (SB 2081/HB 2747) proposed by Attorney General Roy Cooper. This bill was recommended by the Campus Safety Task Force a statewide group made up of members of law enforcement, public and private colleges, government officials, and civic leaders. The Task Force formed just two days after the Virginia Tech shooting studied North Carolina's campuses for almost a year before releasing their recommendations. This bill is not a knee-jerk reaction or a political maneuver as others have suggested.

The Campus Safety Bill has only one goal: to work to make sure that the tragic events that took the lives of 32 people never happens in our state. While the bill has attracted some negative attention in truth the bill does little more than ensure that we follow existing laws. Both federal and state laws already prohibit individuals who have been mentally adjudicated from purchasing a weapon. However, when involuntary commitment records are not entered into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) a gun dealer has no way of knowing that the purchaser has a commitment record.

The majority of individuals with a mental illness are not dangerous. Yet the standard for involuntary commitment is when the person is judged to be a danger to themselves or others. The Campus Safety Bill works to protect the individual's privacy and protect the individual from hurting him/herself or others. Entering commitment records into the NICS is a simple and safe way to prevent a potentially deadly situation. The opposition has stated the bill may prevent someone from purchasing a weapon; however the bill makes every effort to prevent only potentially dangerous individuals from purchasing a weapon and lays out a clear process for anyone who wants to restore her or her rights.

Firearm ownership is an individual choice. Protecting our campuses requires all of us.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Phone Number