

# UT Southwestern Medical Center

## A Message from President Daniel K. Podolsky

September 25, 2015

To the UT Southwestern Community:

As many of you are already aware, legislation passed during the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature allows a licensed holder to carry a concealed handgun on the campuses of institutions of higher education, including UT Southwestern. The legislation also charges the President of each institution to formulate reasonable rules regarding the carrying of concealed handguns on the campus as necessary for campus safety. However, it precludes the adoption of a policy that would have the effect of generally prohibiting licensed holders from carrying concealed handguns on the campus.

Accordingly, the current UTSW policy prohibiting weapons on campus must be revised, and the revised policy submitted to the UT System Board of Regents for review, as the Regents, who have the ultimate governance authority for our institution, may override UTSW's proposed policy by two-thirds of the voting members. Revised policies are to be implemented by August 1, 2016.

A synopsis of the two relevant legislative acts, House Bill 910 relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry a holstered handgun, and Senate Bill 11, relating to the carrying of handguns on the campuses of institutions of higher education and certain other locations associated with them is provided below. (I note that legislation still precludes a licensed holder from openly carrying a holstered handgun on the UTSW campus.)

In formulating an appropriate policy for the UTSW campus, I want to be sure that we have the benefit of perspectives from across the campus, with an opportunity for input by all affected. I have asked Dr. Charles Ginsburg, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration, working with the standing Campus Relations and Security Committee, to assume responsibility for leading the process to recommend a campus policy that will allow us to be in compliance with the legislation.

For the purpose of formulating this particular policy proposal, I have asked that the committee be expanded with ad hoc members to be sure that all perspectives are represented. Dr. Ginsburg has in turn requested that all standing and ad hoc members seek input from their colleagues in order to effectively represent them in the formulation of this campus policy.

A membership list of this specially constituted group is attached. If you have concerns or suggestions, I encourage you to speak with one of these colleagues, or alternatively, to forward your suggestions by email to Dr. Ginsburg ([charles.ginsburg@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:charles.ginsburg@utsouthwestern.edu)).

I am confident that together we will arrive at policies that conform with all legal requirements and are appropriate to the special nature of our institution and its missions. I encourage you to share your thoughts, and I thank you in advance for your support of this initiative.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.  
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center

cc: Charles Ginsburg, M.D.

### **Synopsis of Legislation**

#### **HB910, "Open Carry Bill" relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry a holstered handgun:**

Effective January 1, 2016.

Authorizes individuals with a license to carry a holstered handgun openly in all locations that allow the licensed carrying of a concealed handgun.

Contains an Amendment that prohibits individuals from openly carrying a handgun:

(1) on the premises of an institution of higher education (IHE) or private or independent institution of higher education; or

(2) on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education.

#### **SB11, "Campus Carry Bill," relating to the carrying of handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education:**

Effective August 1, 2016.

Authorizes individuals licensed to carry a concealed handgun to do so on campuses of public institutions of higher education.

Subject to disapproval by not less than 2/3 of the Board of Regents, allows an institution of higher education to establish reasonable rules prohibiting licensed concealed carry, after consultation with students, staff and faculty. The institution of higher education may not establish rules that generally prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting licensed concealed carry at the institution's campus.

Encl.