RESOLUTION CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY TASK FORCE OPPOSITION TO CONCEALED AND OPEN CARRY FIREARMS ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER CAMPUSES

WHEREAS, gun violence at educational institutions around the nation, including on the campuses of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of Oregon, Savannah State University, Pleasantville High School in Pleasantville, New Jersey, and Texas A&M University at Commerce has resulted in the death of many innocent victims; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brad Henry issued Executive Order 2007-17 within days of the April 16, 2007 tragedy on the Virginia Tech campus to create the Campus Life and Safety and Security (CLASS) Task Force and issued Executive Order 2008-8 on February 12, 2008 to extend the activities of the CLASS Task Force, which made recommendations to improve security and safety on Oklahoma's higher education and technology center campuses culminating in a final report in December 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, recognizing the need to continue the important work of the CLASS Task Force with higher education and technology center campuses, established the Campus Safety and Security Task Force in January 2013 to monitor and respond to safety and security policies, advocate prudent safety policies, and promote implementation of campus safety best practices, among other priorities; and

WHEREAS, numerous higher education professional associations, including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American College Personnel Association, National Behavioral Intervention Team Association, and Association for Student Conduct Administration, and other nationally respected organizations have voiced unanimous opposition to concealed carry of firearms on campuses; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators has stated its opposition to concealed weapons on campuses, asserted that there is no credible evidence to suggest that concealed weapons on campus will make campuses safer, and outlined grave concerns regarding the potential for accidental discharge or misuse of firearms, as well as the possibility that law enforcement responders may be unable to distinguish an active shooter from others with firearms; and

WHEREAS, under current law, Oklahoma campus presidents have the discretion to grant exceptions to institutional policy when an exception is warranted, and the current law is working; and

WHEREAS, any proposed legislation that would change current law regarding weapons on Oklahoma's higher education and technology center campuses is vigorously opposed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Chancellor, the Campus Safety and Security Task Force, the presidents of all 25 state system institutions, and the superintendents of all 29 technology centers, who strongly believe allowing guns on higher education and technology center campuses will create a more dangerous environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Campus Safety and Security Task Force respectfully requests that all necessary actions be taken by the Oklahoma Legislature to maintain current law regarding weapons on higher education and technology center campuses.

Approved this _____ day of <u>February</u>, 2020. Thorum

Chanceller Glen D. Johnson, Chairman Campus Safety and Security Task Force

Dr. Marcie Mack, State Director Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education